

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

WHIP ME, AND I'LL GO RIGHT.

FROM the very centre of the turmoil created amongst Dissenters by the famous Minutes of Council, we catch a voice, every now and then, uttering a sort of threat which, it seems to us, it would be much more creditable to suppress. It may appear ungracious, just when excitement is boiling over, to scan with too curious an eye the language in which strong feeling clothes itself. It may be, and, doubtless, it is, quite true that

"At such a time as this it is not meet
That every nice offence should bear its comment."

But even charity itself, we imagine, may well cry "Hush!" when indignation expresses itself in unbecoming tones. There are modes of giving vent to a just anger which disclose habits of mind very much at variance with moral simplicity.

We can readily understand how the vote, by the House of Commons, of a grant upon the Minutes, should, like an electric shock, shatter many a fondly-cherished prejudice, and leave bare and exposed a path of duty not until then perceived. We think it not improbable that the immediate consequence of such a vote, if it should at last be given, will be a vast accession of influence and numbers to the Anti-state-church movement. Experience is the best of teachers, and painful experience may convert thousands to the belief that inaction in regard to state-ecclesiasticism as embodied in existing institutions, not only fails to secure social peace, but affords no guarantee against perpetual encroachments. Such converts it would be our duty and our delight to welcome to our ranks. But we question the propriety of determining beforehand to look out for duty through the medium of contingent events. It hardly consists with the dignity of Christian obligation to poise it upon an alternative. Parties who announce to the world that in case these Minutes are confirmed by the Legislature, they shall deem themselves bound to serve under the Anti-state-church flag, cast a slur as well upon their own motives as upon the cause they may be compelled hereafter to adopt. They proclaim very gratuitously that they will do in passion what they would not do on principle.

The mere proposal of this Educational Scheme, whatever may become of it, might suffice, we think, to remove all lingering doubts as to future duty. It embodies a definite purpose—one, too, which involves the speedy destruction of dissent. No sane man can be at a loss to make out the leading object aimed at by the original inventor of this ingenious mechanism. Whether the Whig government hoped to catch us napping, or was itself the dupe of crafty ecclesiastics, the peril to which we are exposed is equally manifest. Be the prime agent civil or hierarchical, the spirit which moves him is undoubtedly that of the established church. These Minutes are a clear exposition of its will. Their adoption by ministers, is a proof of its tremendous influence. And the temper in which they have been received by the legislature indicates the extent of the political means at its command. All this will remain precisely what it was and is, whatever be the issue of the present struggle. Victory will not improve our main position. Defeat may rouse our passions, but it will not alter our relations to eternal truth, nor to the things which are. In the first case, as well as in the last, we hope to see Dissenters betake themselves manfully to the same resolute course of policy.

We are extremely anxious that the present contest—a mere preliminary to a much greater one—should be carried through with inflexible determination. Within another fortnight it will probably be over—and, terminate how it will, the fruits of it will be momentous. It will affect Dissenters pretty decisively in their position or their character. Defeat may endanger their institutions—victory may ruin themselves. In the first case they may suffer externally—in the

last they may degrade themselves. They may, but will they? They may, by returning forthwith to their old habits of listlessness, by doffing their armour and composing themselves once more to rest, by frowning upon all active exertion for their principles, by calumniating that section of their body which arrays itself for a future and final conflict. The introduction of the Ministerial scheme has altered their relation to the anti-state-church movement. By some, their coldness towards that cause has been thought inexplicable; but now, should that coldness continue, it will be susceptible of but one explanation, and that not by any means a flattering one. Assuming, then, for the moment, that they will succeed in averting from them the impending danger, we beg to suggest to them a consideration or two, adapted, we think, to impress upon them clear views of subsequent duty. We take the alternative of victory rather than defeat, upon which to found our observations, because we have stronger misgivings as to the ultimate consequences of the one than of the other. There are but too many who will wait to be whipped before they will recognize the necessity of going right.

We entreat Dissenters, then, to recognize frankly, and without hesitation, what is due to their position. They are now on the very verge of a general election. Those members of Parliament whose prospects of a new tenure of legislative power depend entirely upon the support given to them by the Nonconformists, will be compelled to act with a caution not altogether natural to them. Lord John Russell's time happens to be, for them, an ill-chosen one. Give them a new lease, and they will snap their fingers at our scruples—scruples which, even now, they cannot understand. They know, too, that every fresh burst of temporary agitation exhausts our strength, and leaves us less able to cope with our persevering antagonists. Present triumph, unless followed up by active, systematic, and united aggression upon the citadel of ecclesiastical injustice, will only defer our danger, not avert it. The hour and mode of attack upon us will be more skilfully selected. The hierarchy, forced for a moment to retreat, will watch, and patiently "bide their time." Their temper, their interests, their history, alike forbid us to indulge the expectation that they will abandon their ultimate purpose. None would chuckle more heartily than they over signs of our contentment with victory. Doubtless, their minions will everywhere encourage our supineness—lull us, if possible, into a treacherous slumber—and then seize upon the earliest opportunity for accomplishing what nothing but the proximity of the election can prevent them from effecting at the present moment.

Something, we may add, is due from Dissenters to their country. These Minutes of Council have disclosed the danger to which public liberty is exposed from the incessant plottings of State-Churchism. Unhappily, the people are not yet thoroughly alive to the impolicy of receiving gifts from their deadliest foe. Shall we leave them in ignorance? Does not patriotism demand from us a strenuous effort to instruct the masses in the question which Providence seems to have commissioned this age to settle? Shall we allow priestism to sit behind the scenes, and pull the wires of Government, without pointing to it as the main agent of popular oppression? When centralization is rapidly supplanting in almost every department the old English system of municipal and local management—when the web-work of patronage is being woven over all our national interests—and when one after another the safeguards of our liberty are being quietly, and almost without protest, removed, does it become the Dissenters, satisfied with having, as they think, secured their own safety, to suffer their fellow-countrymen to remain unenlightened as to the real source of modern despotism? Can we hesitate about the direction in which duty points? Ought we not to strip the mask from the people's most artful but most inveterate driver? Shall we leave them to be cajoled by specious flatteries? One thing is certain. If the present scheme be withdrawn, Church influence will be instantly set to work to pervert the popular mind into a due state of preparation for another and perhaps a worse one. If we neglect the masses, the hierarchy will not.

Lastly, much is due to the dignity of our own principles. They constitute the life of our institutions, and without them Dissent is but "an unhandsome corpse." We ought not to say that our service of them shall be dependent upon the success of a raid upon our interests. We do wrong thus to dishonour what gives us all the glory we possess. The

discipline we are undergoing will, we trust, bring the whole body of Dissenters into harmony with their professions. For our own part, we are full of hope. The future has in it much of promise. The bow is across the cloud—

"And darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day."

Before long, we expect to see a cordial union and co-operation of all parties who repudiate Government interference in the affairs of religion. They are but few—one here and there—who say, "Whip me, and I'll go right." They are many, we believe, whom passing events have brought to this nobler resolution, "Go right I will, whatever may come of it."

NORFOLK AND NORWICH RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SOCIETY.

(From the *Norfolk News*.)

CONFERENCE AT NORWICH.

On Wednesday last a most important meeting of the friends of Religious Liberty was held at the Assembly-rooms, Norwich, and was attended by influential gentlemen from all parts of the county. Amongst the ministers present, we observed Messrs. Russell, Yarmouth; Keen, Worstead; Hamilton, Wigner, Lynn; Browne, North Walsham; Sparks, Aylsham; Venimore, Ing-ham; Andrews, Long Stratton; Laidler, Harleston; Fairbrother, Dereham; Bane, Downham; Puntis, Scott, Reed, Lord, Wheeler, Norwich; with many others, whose names we could not catch. Of the laymen present we observed J. W. Shelly, Esq., Yarmouth; W. H. C. Hardy, Esq., Letheringsett-hall; J. H. Tillett, Esq., J. Colman, Esq., Norwich; B. J. Crisp, Esq., Harleston; J. Turner, Esq., Trowse; H. Brown, Esq., Thetford; H. Burrell, Esq., Thornage; Messrs. R. Cooke, and H. Cooke, Stalham; Mr. Mines, Diss; Mr. Graves, Northwold; Mr. Barber Sutton; Mr. Tipple, Wymondham; Messrs. John Francis, Jarrold, Fletcher, Smith, &c., &c.

This meeting was called for the purpose of determining on the proceedings to be adopted at the present crisis.

J. H. TILLET, Esq., was called to the chair, and briefly stated the purport of the meeting. The first resolution (for which see advertisement), condemnatory of the education plan was moved by the oldest minister in the county, in a most energetic and efficient speech, and after being ably seconded, elicited a little discussion, but was at length unanimously adopted. The second resolution, pledging those present not to vote for any candidates who supported the Education measure, elicited considerable discussion. The Rev. G. Moir, of the Scotch Free Church, who was present, strongly urged upon the Conference a steadfast adherence to the principles of Religious Liberty, particularly in the coming election. Able speeches *pro* and *con.*, were made by W. H. C. Hardy, Esq., Mr. F. Pigg, Rev. J. Russell, Mr. Thomas Jarrold, and the Chairman, and was at length passed with only one dissentient voice. The adoption of this resolution is a strong indication of the determination of the meeting. The remaining resolutions were unanimously carried. We do not remember to have been present at any meeting marked by more earnestness, sobriety, and firm determination thoroughly to act out the great principles so nobly advocated. Whether this meeting be considered simply in the aspect of the gentlemen composing it—who represented nearly all the Dissenting congregations in the county—or whether it be looked at in regard to the important principles adopted, and the arduous struggle for which it was preparatory, it must be regarded as the most important one ever held by the Dissenters of Norfolk, and as a good omen of future progress and ultimate triumph.

A deputation was appointed to attend the Conference in London, on the 4th of May, and urge the adoption of the plan of operations recommended in the last resolution.

SOIREE AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL.

The *soirée* of the Religious Liberty Society, so long and so anxiously anticipated, took place in St. Andrew's hall, on the evening of Wednesday last. The arrivals of influential members of various Dissenting communities in the county, continued to increase throughout the day, and, at the appointed hour, we found a very large assemblage in the spacious and noble hall. The aspect of the meeting was remarkable; and exhibited, at once, intense earnestness, and the cheerfulness inspired by hope. It was evident that the meeting, important as it was from mere numbers, was far more important as representing the Nonconformists of the county. Nearly all the Dissenting ministers of Norfolk were present.

We also observed gentlemen from Yarmouth, Lynn, Thetford, Dereham, Fakenham, Downham, North Walsham, Aylsham, and all parts of the county. On no former occasion, in our recollection, have so many influential persons been assembled together from the surrounding districts for any purpose connected with the Dissenting interests. About 1,000 ladies and gentlemen sat down to tea: a considerable number joined the meeting later in the evening.

On the motion of the Mayor, seconded by J. W. Shelley, Esq., of Yarmouth, J. H. TILLET, Esq. was called to the chair.

He said, it was with the greatest pleasure he obeyed their call to take the chair on that occasion, although he was sure they would readily believe him when he said it would have been the source of the greatest gratification to him if some gentleman more worthy had occupied that position. They were there met under circumstances of peculiar importance [hear]. There had been for some time established in this locality a society called the Norfolk and Norwich Religious Liberty Society, for the purpose of bringing before the public the desirableness of preventing any interference on the part of Government with the religion of the people. The national mind having been almost entirely engrossed with a most important question, it was deemed advisable to suspend, for a time, the active operations of the Society; but the triumph of free trade principles having been achieved [hear], and the national mind more at liberty, it again came before the public, and said, "It is our turn next" [applause]. The same power of the people—the same power of truth, which accomplished the great victory to which he had referred, would accomplish yet another [applause]. The Society had, during the last two or three months, delivered a course of lectures in this city, for the purpose of explaining its principles and views, and he believed they had been attended with beneficial results. They had, at all events, been appreciated, because Churchmen had condescended to reply to them [hear, and applause]. The Society was anxious that the public should have an opportunity of hearing those great men who had advocated, in other places, the cause to which they were attached; they accordingly requested their attendance, and they had most kindly responded to the call, and were now before them.

After a few further observations, the chairman read the resolutions passed at the conference held in the morning at the Assembly-rooms.

The Rev. C. STOVEL rose amidst loud applause, and said:—

First of all I congratulate you, friends of Norwich and the county, on the spirit with which you have betaken yourselves to this great work, and in the point on which you have proposed to yourselves to rest. In the work which you have undertaken be quite assured that nothing will be effectually accomplished until you have secured the entire separation of the Church and State—the entire termination of all interference of the State with religion, of all attempts of the State to control its operation [applause]. Such a measure, if undertaken at all, should be undertaken with the greatest earnestness; I am thankful, therefore, for the earnestness which you have exhibited. If not justified by the strongest reasons, you ought never to make the attempt; but if, after calmly and prayerfully deliberating on the whole matter, you arrive at the conviction (and I think it the right one) that this State interference is an injury inflicted upon yourselves and your fellow-men—if you think that the thing you deprecate is an insult offered to the God of Heaven and the Redeemer of Mankind, then neither is it your province quietly to look on, nor to withhold what efforts you may put forth to remedy the evil; nor will it be consistent for you to look back [cheers]. You have passed the Rubicon, and it is unquestionably for you either to conquer, or if not personally to perish, to see your best interests perish before your eyes. After some allusions to the lectures which had been delivered by the Religious Liberty Society, the speaker said, I am sorry I am bound to express my sympathy with you all in the affliction of one of our countrymen who has been exalted in your esteem, and embalmed in your affections as he is devoted to your interest [applause]. My brother Brock and I, have scarcely been two for many years—certainly not two in heart. I trust his affliction will soon be removed, and that his generous heart and vigorous hand will again be with you.

Mr. Stovel proceeded to advert to the proposed Government measure for education, and then said:—

In your own city, in a lecture recently delivered by Mr. Gladstone in answer to the lectures on our side, it is laid down as a first principle, that the man who wishes to introduce a change into our glorious constitution [laughter] is bound to show the reason why such a change is pleaded and demanded. Now here is the point; though thus making the demand in a wrong way upon his opponents, he and his brethren are pressing a change, not of a measure, but a change in the constitution itself [hear]—while they absolutely shrink from the task of bringing the discussion of that great question before the representatives in Parliament [applause]. If the *onus probandi* lies on him that asks the change, then the *onus probandi* lies on them to show, first, why such a change as that of devolving education upon Government should be asked, and secondly, why it should be asked in that skulking manner in which they have asked it [loud applause]. Let these things be considered, and we shall then understand the parties with whom we have to deal. This measure seems to have been introduced as a kind of sliding scale. You see advancing, a change in the constitution—gliding in, professing a readiness to modify the movement to any of our prejudices and feelings—only let it be [laughter], only let us do it, let it glide in; it is a mere nothing; only let it slip [laughter]. When it has slipped in, when the measure has been adopted, first with a small grant to the committee, raised now to £100,000, and ultimately advanced to an expenditure of certainly not less than £2,000,000 a year; only let it slide in, in this way, let them introduce the kind intention without discussing its merits; then presently, when the cancer hath struck its root into the vitals of your interests, when the fibres of this policy have been wound round your children and your homes, when there is not a village, when there is not a family that has not been brought under their terrific influence, they will turn round and say, "We asked you for it, and you kindly consented to it then [loud applause], but now the principle is admitted, you must show your right; you must take the *onus* of proving the necessity of a change." They will smile at your reasons, and say, "We introduce the principle with kindness, but now you will reason us out of £2,000,000 a year." Precisely such is the policy which has marked the whole movement of affairs relating to the union of Church and State. When it first presented itself, it was not in the form of that rank, daring, and I might almost say blasphemous tyranny, under which we have sometimes groaned. No, Constantine the Great sat quietly by; his chair was out-

side the precincts of the Church; he simply said, "I will help you to get copies of the Holy Scriptures from Palestine—they shall come in cart loads;" and they did come in large loads and bales. He said, "I will help you to settle disputes between bishops and bishops, between deacons and deacons, between pastors and people. I will give you only the help of the sword for good: 'It is nothing—only let it come—and it came, and out of it rose the terrific tyranny of Papacy' [applause]. And when the Reformers introduced the great doctrines of the Protestant reformation, and rent themselves away from the Papacy, when they had thrown off the yoke of centralizing power at Rome, they bowed down and succumbed with a meanness which finds no parallel in history to political power at home, and out of that rose the great Establishment of England. And this has been the instrument, the paid instrument of diffusing the most soul-destroying doctrines of our age, and now it stands in all the effrontery it can assume, and says, 'Do not ask us to show the reason for our position, but rather do you show the reason for a change' [applause]. The policy of introducing the educational measure, is that which explains the policy of introducing the establishment measure, and the mode of defending the one will show the results which will follow, and the methods which will be adopted in defending the other [hear, hear, and applause]. But this principle did not originate in our day; it is but the rag of an ancient policy, advocated as long ago as the time of Plato. It is now adopted in some countries on the Continent; it is adopted in Prussia, and if any one wants to understand how far such a measure will lead to freedom, let him see what Prussia now is. Let him look at France, too, and see if he would like to imitate that country in modifying the affairs of England. Why, brethren, England hath been that bright light-house, stuck upon the shore or in sight of the continent—a beacon against wrong and a guide to safety [applause]. And shall we borrow a guide to darkness? No; our duty is to maintain our high peculiarity, which is to lighten the darkness of others.

The rev. gentleman then referred to the recent decision of Lord Denman in the Braintree church-rate case, and to the recent church-rate seizure at Lynn, and proceeding said:—

Brethren, we ought to be very particular in dealing with the arguments, or more properly the sophisms which our antagonists employ. You will allow me kindly to say to you: in conducting your discussions with these gentlemen, study the ground you take, and also the ground you let them take; for if you are not very watchful of them, if you are not very particular in the course you adopt, they will be sure to take the advantage of your want of care. As to the *onus*, Mr. Gladstone, of your city, would throw upon us, that those who want a change, must show cause why such a change is desired, I would say a word or two. Why, one would think, that he might have known that when we ask for a change, we don't make the change. When I find a man with his hand in my pocket, shall I ask him who is it that makes the change when his hand is turned out? [Laughter]. I want to keep my change, and him who would take it I want to change, to make him an honest and respectable member of society, to teach him "to cease to do evil and learn to do well" [Great applause]. If this man, Mr. Gladstone, shall be found doing that which he cannot justify, it is enough for me to ask, why he should have his hand in my pocket? Now, this is not a special plea, for his friends allow it; Hooker, in his "Ecclesiastical Polity," allows it, but resorts to other means to justify the practice, which, however, he failed to sustain. I say, let Mr. Gladstone and his friends advance and show scriptural reasons for their proceedings [Cheers]. I for one will say, that as soon as these men shall show divine law to prove what they have done, and do, though it may be beyond my reason to comprehend, yet to the law of my God I will bow. But if a man introduce what is a dishonour to my Redeemer, and then, assuming the ground which he has taken for his own advantage, say to me, the *onus* is on you to show cause for a change; I say I will make no terms with the man, for his requirement is an insult to my reason.

Mr. Stovel then took a rapid view of the increased efforts of voluntarism in this country during the last fourteen years—efforts from which are drawn the incessant glow of meetings like the present, and churches which have advanced religious, intellectual, and social improvement to what it now is [cheers]. After referring to the opposition these efforts have experienced from the establishment principle, which, lifting its mitred front and bedaubed garments within the precincts of kingly courts, too rapacious to be satisfied, and too lazy to do, is still crying like the horse-leech, "Give, give," he thus proceeded:—

Brethren, if these things were done in the name of man, I could bear them better; if they were directed against the interests of time, I could bear them better; but when I see eternity hanging upon their sophisms and artifices—when I looked at the tracts issued from Oxford (and, after all, they are but the just exponents of the doctrines of the Church for which they plead)—when I see people leading the country to look back again to the darkness from which it has emerged—when I see them pleading for candles to enlighten their darkness at noon-day, and for all the flummery of Popery, I cannot but feel grieved and distressed, and I turn my eyes to heaven and cry, "Arm of the Lord, awake, and shake the nations, and grant us to see in thine own time and way the whole fabric of this blasphemous power riven from its coping-stone to its foundation, and crumble into dust" [loud applause].

The Rev. J. BURNET next addressed the meeting. He said:—

I wish to state, that we do not come here this evening to obtrude ourselves upon the good people of Norwich. It is sometimes said, that we are itinerants, going about and disturbing the country, exciting agitation where no agitation is needed. Now, we have not come here in such a capacity, but by the people of Norwich themselves [hear, hear]. This has originated with yourselves. I mention this, not, as I shall show you, to escape from any charge that might be brought against us, but for the purpose of showing the people of this county the real character of this movement. Sir, I glory in itinerancy [hear, and cheers]. I glory in agitation. The apostles were charged with turning the world upside down [hear]. We want to do that, Sir. We are not satisfied with the world as it is; and is any one satisfied with it as it is? Do the Government reports with respect to the education of the country, express any satisfaction with the country as it is? Is the Committee of Council satisfied with the country as it is? No, for they are going to send out their own itinerant instructors throughout the length and breadth of the land. After abusing us about our itinerancy, they are getting up a national system of itinerancy of their own [hear, hear]. I am not, therefore, inclined to admit that itinerancy is wrong, having all these authorities to sustain me in the conviction that it is right. But perhaps they would say that dissent was wrong, and it was to dissenting itinerancy

to which they objected; there was nothing wrong in agitating for Church and State, it was only dissenting agitation that was wrong. They seem to want something like the Irish reciprocity, all on one side [laughter]. If they could get that, they would be quite satisfied with itinerancy, and agitation, and everything else that you may choose to throw into their scale, but they won't have anything thrown into the other. But what do the good friends of the Church and State, that have given us so much trouble, propose to do? They propose to deery us in the first place; they have tried that a long time, from the time when they would burn and drown us, down to the time when, in your own city, they tell us that dissent comes from hell. Now, sir, when we are dealt with in this way, we ought to inquire who are Dissenters? For three hundred years after the introduction of Christianity, the religion of the State was Paganism; Christians, therefore, are all Dissenters. The Apostles were Dissenters, and they were thought (as Dissenters afterwards were thought,) only worthy of having their feet made fast in the stocks. From the time of Constantine, downwards, great numbers of persons have stood connected with the State Church of the country; consequently the State Church Christians are Dissenters from the Apostolic, the Primitive Church. We have not changed at all. It was they who changed, and we asked them why they did so. They turn round and ask us why they should change now; and we just say to them, "having once changed from good to bad, you are to go back again." ["Hear, and cheers."] But our good friends tell us that there were kings of old, who enjoined religion, and that therefore kings in modern times should do the same. Now let me place this in its real light before you. The Jewish kings took their course under the guidance of a law which God gave them in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy; not from acts of Parliament from such men as Henry VIII. [hear]. No, nor acts of Parliament from such men as Edward VI. They had their laws from the God of heaven; by these laws they had the power to use the strong arm, and they wielded it for the advancement of their religion. Now let these gentlemen who would take these kings as a standard for kings in modern times, in order to be consistent, take the man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath-day, and stone him on the Monday. Don't let them tell me that that would be going too far. Where is the passage that allows you to make an exception? Take a child, and, for disobedience to his parents, stone him to death. That's the law they applied. Take any instances which you find occurring in the Old Testament of punishing by capital punishment, or otherwise, and have them all now, and then I say you are proper Jews certainly [laughter and cheers]. If you say, "We will take as much Judaism as will suit us and no more," I ask where do you get permission to do this? Show me chapter and verse for it. Show me anything in the spirit and genius of Christianity that will allow you to make any selection whatever. The Jews were commanded to do everything that God required of them; they had no power to use any discretion whatever; even in the making of the Tabernacle God directed them. Moses was not allowed to construct it on any principle contrary to that which was laid down. "See," said he, "that thou make it according to the pattern showed thee on the Mount." Go now and stone me; don't sell me in effigy at an auction [laughter]. Take me outside the city of Norwich, if I have blasphemed in your estimation, and stone me at once. Why don't you? Will you do it? If you don't, will you show me why you won't? Will you show me any passage that will allow you to let me escape with a mitigated penalty? ["Hear, and applause."] Until you do this, away with every attempt to appropriate the authority of the Mosaic law to the Church of England [cheers]. Such an attempt is unworthy of a gentleman of clerical information, unworthy of a scholar, and cannot be justified when fully considered by the conscience of any Christian man. What does the New Testament say? It tells us plainly, that the past dispensation is done away. It tells us plainly, that the first dispensation was not intended to continue. Let any Christian scholar read the Epistle to the Hebrews, and if he does not see that the whole Epistle is intended to show the Jewish dispensation has been altogether superseded, I cannot understand his powers of apprehension. Now, then, what are the grounds upon which we are to take our stand? What is the duty which you have to perform? Do you think dissent worthy of being supported? Or do you think it is a mere system of convenience? That the church is very good, but it so happens that your friends are not in that church—that your lot has fallen in other places, and that you pursue the beaten path? Is that your course?—if so—if you attempt to create a schism in the nation for motives so low, you must, indeed, be a very schismatical people. For the mere sake of asserting a preference, will you hold up Christianity to the world as divided into Church and Dissent? If so, you must be the most pugnacious people I ever knew. I would not fight with anybody for a mere preference. If it was a mere matter of taste, I would give it up and say, "Do not let us divide the nation, we are all good Christians, let us go together and have no divisions." There must be a strong disposition to differ, to divide, to fight, on the part of those who would separate themselves from the National Establishment, merely because of a personal preference—because their fathers and their grandfathers were Dissenters. Such people must be as anxious to fight with the National Institution as Paddy was with his friends in the fair, when he threw his great coat over his shoulders and trailed the tail of it on the ground, in order to fight with any one who trampled on it [laughter]. If, however, dissent involves in your estimation the claims of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords; if dissent involves the spiritual authority of the great Redeemer; if dissent involves the pure and simple testimony of the gospel diffused throughout the world, for the salvation of sinners, without money and without price [cheers]; if it involves, in your estimation, the enlightening and conversion of the world, then you are criminals against the authority of him whom you thus acknowledge, if you do not give yourselves to it with heart and hand, with a determination of purpose which nothing can shake [applause]. This is my view of dissent. I regard it as a revelation from God. I regard the New Testament as the standard of dissent. I look to the Redeemer as the great head of dissent, and I look to every national Church as setting aside his spiritual authority. I am, therefore, ready to stand up and suffer for my cause, whatever the Churchman may say for his glebes small, or his glebes great, for his tithes little or his tithes much, for his limited income or his enlarged income. No calculations with me. The question is, what is the will of the Kings of kings, and the Lord of lords?

In allusion to the duties of Dissenters with reference to their representatives, the speaker said:—

The members will say, we are the representatives of a parcel of spaniels, that will come to us with the greater kindness the more we whip them; if we don't whip them they won't like us. "That's the course they'll take." Think of this when you are giving your votes [hear, hear]. But it may be said, "Then we shall lose our votes if we don't give them to some of these men. Mustn't we take the

best we can get?" No [cheers]. If you can get a respectable minority in Norwich who have a right to vote, but who say, "We won't vote for a man who works against our principles"—if you can get such a minority, you won't have to do it a second time [hear]. You will gather like a snowball, and return your own member for Norwich. But if you give your vote to the best of the bad, you will have a fellowship bordering in some degree on the good fellowship that Mr. Gladstone said you had given up [laughter and much cheering].

The reverend speaker here adverted to the Government interference in reference to the education of the people, and spoke of the evils of Minute legislation. He continued:—

Why, by the voluntary system, England has been rising ever since the time of Elizabeth. It has been walking onward, and onward, and onward, but now, finding the child is growing ostentatious, they are going to take the child into their own hands [laughter and cheers]. Just let them know that your national manhood has reached a measure of maturity, that will not permit you to succumb to such unworthy deeds [hear]. Let them know that your national intellect has been sufficiently illuminated not to be hoodwinked by them any more. If they say, what shall we do without a church? say to them, support it yourselves; don't come to us to support it; we ask you not for a single penny for our education, for our religion: we are ready to teach ourselves, and to worship God according to our own consciences, in our own way—go you and do likewise [applause]. The speaker concluded—the name of Russell is connected with the history of this country's liberties; some of the family of Russell have bled for them; but the name of Russell is also connected with these Minutes of Council, and with all the modern encroachments of Churchism. Whatever may have been the history of the past, the name of Russell is now no longer a stronghold; therefore I would say, trust it not, [applause.] trust to your own strength, your own good feelings of English independency, your own good feelings of scriptural Christianity [loud applause].

EDWARD MIALI, Esq., then rose amidst the loudest bursts of applause, and said—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen—Since I have been in this building, I have been engaged in looking upon the audience before me, with deep emotions of interest. I regard you first, not merely as an assembly of individuals, but as bearing in some respects a representative character [hear]. I imagine that there is gathered into this place very much of the dissenting heart of Norfolk, [hear, hear,] and I feel the responsibility under which we are laid, when called upon to address you either with a view of elucidating principle, or of exciting your interest in it. I look upon you with deeper interest, inasmuch as I understand that you have pledged yourselves deeply, permanently to a principle, and to a contest of the vastest importance. I think it would be unkind to you to conceal for a moment from you the magnitude of that struggle upon which you are just now entered. The work about which we are engaged, believe me, is to be no holiday work [hear]. It is well for us in the season of festivity, to meet together and cheerfully talk over our principles and our prospects, but this work is to be accomplished by something more manly than this. Deeds must be put forth, self-sacrifice must be endured, scorn must be welcomed, and possibly, loss of all worldly interest sustained, before we shall arrive at the victory of truth [hear]. You have entered upon the work at a very peculiar crisis of affairs. Dissenters would seem to be just at the present moment, under a course of affliction and sorrow. Whatever may be the struggles with which we meet this educational plan of the minister, I fear, and I speak it not with a view in the slightest degree of casting depression over your minds, that the ministry, and those by whom they are surrounded—their new alliance, the hierarchy of Great Britain, are determined that their point shall be carried. I believe, if the Minutes of Council be sanctioned by that House, that a vast effect will be produced upon the Dissenting bodies; and I don't know that we have reason to regret this [hear, hear]. We have placed ourselves, by our past conduct in reference to the principles we hold, in a position rendering absolutely necessary some moral discipline of a most stringent kind, in order to brace us up for that greater conflict which is before us [hear]. It is not altogether impossible, at all events to my judgment, that before Dissent shall be able thoroughly to grapple with its antagonists, it must lose much of that extension which is merely nominal [hear]. These Minutes of Council, and the policy which they indicate as having been entered upon by the civil powers of the kingdom, will assuredly cut off from our body, a very large portion of that which is insincere [hear]. Whatever cannot withstand the temptation will go. All that is worldly, all that is merely respectable, all that would stand well in the eyes of the great men of this world, and would be thought to be at peace with the whole of mankind; whatever may be their engagements, all this will, in the course of time, be sapped from dissent by the action of that system now about to be adopted. Better that it should be so. Far better. Of late we have made progress in extension and in girth, but our girth has been that of dropsy, and not of health. There is not the real life-blood in the heart of Dissent that there should be; if there had been, the Ministers, the Legislature, would never have dared to treat us with the contempt which they have [applause]. Sir, we have brought this upon ourselves. Let us look upon the chastisement and submit, if submit we must, with patience—patience, I mean, with reference to that Providence that overrules all. Let us earnestly cast about ourselves, to impress upon our hearts that lesson which Providence intended to impress upon us—namely, that it is more necessary by far that we should stand to the truth and to our principles, than that we should multiply our churches and our numbers [cheers]. You are entering upon a great struggle; will you permit one who has also had something to do in struggling, in regard to this business [cheers], to throw out one or two suggestions, which possibly you may revolve in your own minds, and may find to be useful to you in the course of your future career. I would say, in the first place, trust your principles [hear]. Take them not merely upon credit. If you are not acquainted with them, with the evidence by which they are supported, with the spirit which they embody, with the ends which they are intended to accomplish, then go and study this great thing. You are not thoroughly fit for the warfare, until you have so long gazed upon those principles which are embodied in Dissent from all human establishments of religion, until those principles themselves are incorporated with your very being, and you feel it to be not only an obligation, but a privilege, to work, aye, and to suffer, on their behalf [cheers]. Trust them. Be not ashamed of them in company. Glory in them as a man always glories in that which he loves. Do not, as some alas, have done, and as we have been all too much accustomed to do in times that are gone, huddle your principles into your pockets, in the presence of the great men of the world [hear, hear]. They never do so with theirs. They will speak about their venerable establishment on every platform at every public meeting. What-

ever may be the basis on which they meet together, they always allude to that Church with which their affections are identified, and allude to it with a feeling of honour and pride. I respect them for it with all my heart [hear]. I only wish that Dissenters had always acted on the same principle, [hear], that they had stood up at all times and magnified the principles which they hold. Trust, then, these principles; trust them, I mean, not merely by at all times avowing them in every company, but by believing most thoroughly that as they come from God, so they will lead to God—that you cannot lose by them, and that under no circumstances will they bring you into evil, that no expediency should induce you to forego them, that no outward signs or dispositions of the times should so far prevail upon you as to cause you to put them in abeyance. Trust them thoroughly in every place and under all circumstances, and believing that if they come from God, they must eventually prosper. Why, what do we hear? I am ashamed to refer to it, but it is so. What do we hear often prevailing in the circles in which we move, respecting such a movement as that upon which you have now entered? "Well, the principle we all know is right; we perfectly and thoroughly agree with you as far as the principle goes, but then you know, it is all absurd to think of carrying it out. Look at the power of the aristocracy; look at the immense power of the Church; look at the influence which they can command; look at this, that, and the other, and say, will a mere handful of Dissenters think of overturning an Establishment that has lasted for upwards of a thousand years, and struck its roots into all the interests of the country—social, civil, and even domestic?" The only answer to this is, Do you believe your principles [hear]? Are they from God or are they from men? Why, if I have with me a truth, and that truth be one revealed from heaven, identified with the salvation of men, and the extension of the kingdom of Christ, I feel safer with that truth than though all the kings of the earth were banded together with me in the accomplishment of the work. I know that these kings may be so banded, when there is one who sits in the heavens that can laugh and have them in derision; and I know that wherever his truth is taken up, even by the feeblest instrumentality, if it be only faithfully urged, it must ultimately prevail [applause]. But there is something further than this. There is not only believing the power of truth, but putting your faith in what the Scriptures have termed the foolishness of preaching. It is just by this foolishness of preaching that the union between Church and State is to be rent asunder [hear]. Men will all look upon you as a mere ridiculous minority, going up and down the country talking about your principles before your fellow-subjects. They will look upon you with the utmost scorn and contempt, and will ask in derision, "Are these the men who are to turn the world upside down? Do they think by the breath of their voices to prevail against a system that has been upheld by the customs, the habits, the maxims, and affections of society for ages past? What a perfect, a preposterous absurdity!" And yet when God had so decreed, Jericho fell, though it were only at the blast of the rams' horns; aye, and that which has most changed the face of this earth, that has most thoroughly modified society, altering the very basis of philosophy, and even recasting the national character and national habits—Christianity—that has made such progress in the world, and so entirely altered the phase of society, has accomplished all this, and would have done infinitely more if it had only relied on one simple instrumentality, the foolishness of preaching. It is by the proclamation of truth that we get at the mind, and if we can only get at the mind of our country, in reference to this great question, I care not who has the bayonet and powder. Give me the judgment of Great Britain, and I give to Government the physical power. I know well that although for a little time they may be able to resist our importunities, yet when once this great empire has decided upon anything as reasonable and just, there is no power on earth that can resist its ultimate demands [cheers]. Your business, my friends, as well as mine, is just to instruct; kindly, courteously, intelligently, and calmly to get at the real reason of society; to touch their hearts, show them the identity of the cause in which you are now engaged, with the highest and most important interests of mankind, and prove to them by all that you do, that you are thoroughly in earnest, that you feel a deep interest in the engagement which you have undertaken; and when once there are a sufficient number of men who shall traverse the length and breadth of this country, and show to all people the evident justice that lies embodied in our question, the evident religion that is identified with it and with its triumph; then I feel perfectly convinced, that though all the legislature should sit and laugh with scorn, just as they laughed some years ago at the idea of repealing the corn-laws, the day will not be far distant when they will have to go, possibly under the direction of some renegade leader, and propose and carry the entire separation of the Church from the State [applause]. Well, then, if you would be faithful to the trust you have taken in hand, I beseech you to cast off all political alliances [hear]. I know very well that this is a somewhat delicate point to touch upon, especially amongst Dissenters, but still I think it better that we should all of us speak our minds outright, than that we should conceal anything which we should conceive might tend to our mutual profit. I am perfectly assured in my own judgment, that we, as Dissenters, shall never be able to make way with the great cause to which you have set your hands, without at once abandoning all thoughts of deriving assistance, counsel, or encouragement, from the political parties of the day. I care not what you call them, whether they are Tory or conservative, or conservative whig, or whig conservative, or simple whig, or whig radical, or pure radical, or philosophical radical [laughter]; all will be against you on this one question, for all of them are anxious to make religion an instrument in governing the people [applause]. In this one respect, they are all upon much of a muchness [laughter]; they are all very much upon a level. Now, we Dissenters, (I include myself,) have been of late years considerably and hardly ridden by the whigs [laughter]. It is no use to conceal it from ourselves, but they have cajoled us; they have spoken great sounding principles to us on the hustings; they have come and given us their hands in our houses when canvassing for votes, as the most earnest friends of civil and religious liberty; they have written very polite and taking letters to us; when we have sent them petitions, they have paid us compliments respecting our integrity of character, and they have just voted with the head of their party, for the advancement of the Church [hear, and applause]. And we have framed and protested, and hurled petitions at the House of Commons, created a great noise, and passed sounding resolutions, determining that we would never send them back again; and they have just come down to us, and so explained the necessity they were under of voting with the minister of the day, because they were important principles of imperial policy there were just then endangered; and would we let in a Tory [laughter and applause]? Had we no recollection of the atrocious deeds that had been done under Pitt, and Sidmouth, and Castlereagh, and could not we distinguish our friends from our foes? To be sure it was a little incon-

venient that this particular question should have come up at this particular time, for there was no party who would have been more happy to have voted on the other side [laughter and cheers]. Yes, then, we good-natured Dissenters, thinking evil of no man, almost trusting that the parties who go up to Parliament as our representatives, have a religious interest in the advancement of the people's welfare,—we take all these excuses in good part, and vote them in again. And what is the consequence? There are those to whom I could refer (and my friend, Mr. Burnet, knows it as well as I do, Mr. Stovel perhaps, too), who, in their mutual intercourse with each other, when free from the eye of the world, in their clubs, at Bellamy's, in the library of the House of Commons, and whispering together under the galleries, call us—what? How do you think they speak of us? What is their choice phraseology? They call us "sanctimonious humbugs" [laughter and cheers]. This is no invention of mine, I should not choose to employ the term; it is the term that most frequently passes out of their lips in reference to Dissenters. All parties, it matters not what may be their precise shadow of politics, agree in this—that Dissenters can always make a great noise, and they may always be trusted to return the men whom they have formerly returned [loud cheers]. Now Norwich [hear, hear], people of Norwich [hear, hear], you have set your hand to a great work. What do you mean to do? You have members; how have they voted? and how will you vote? [hear.] Can you in manliness, rather than sacrifice a vote upon a misrepresentative, keep it within your power and stand proudly aloof from a contest in which you have no interest, between "tweedledum and tweedledee." [laughter, and cheers.] The Whigs, undoubtedly, have in past time done us some service, and I will not detract from their high praise, so far as they are entitled to it from Dissenters. For a long time they were a party identified with principles connected with the progress and development of civil and religious freedom. I know that they have wrested from the powers that be—from the legislature, some acts that have had a beneficial operation for ourselves, and placed us in a more equal position with our fellow-citizens. I give them all credit for these acts, but I will ask any man to take the conduct of those gentlemen from the passing of the Reform Bill, or at all events from within two years of the passing of that bill, from the time when they discovered that we were not so strong as they thought, up to the present time. I would ask, whether in their sneers at the voluntary principle, in the insult which they cast upon our religious teachers, in the constant scorn with which they refer to our common notion respecting the maintenance of the church, and in the acts which they have developed, which, in fact, they have brought into practice, they have not always discovered an intimate sympathy with the establishment as it is? [hear, hear.] Why, who gave to us our workhouse chaplains? The Whigs. Who spread our colonial bishops over the face of the whole dominion of Great Britain? I say again, it was chiefly the Whigs; and who are now adding to the clergymen, the churchwarden, and the clerk, first of all the schoolmaster, then stipendiary monitors and expectants out of the working-classes, who are looking forward to a comfortable livelihood? Who in fact are thus diffusing through all society, the poison of their corruption, undermining the manliness and independence of the British character, and thus taking away the very material out of which to form religious men and women—Christian heroes? I say, who is it but the Whigs? [applause.] In mere political matters, there is no such difference between them and Tories, that I should give them my support, when I see them constantly endeavouring to undermine the ecclesiastical principles I hold. I hold my allegiance to Jesus Christ, far higher than I do to any political party whatever, and I believe my allegiance to him permits me, compels me to use that political influence which I have, to protest against every thing that invades the prerogatives of his crown [applause]. I say that the extension of this system—the perpetuation of it in Great Britain is just stifling all the prospects of Christian usefulness in future times. Let us but have the return of priestism here, and religion will just clap her wings, and fly across to the Atlantic or to the Antipodes. We cannot have true, fervent, progressive, intelligent, spiritual piety, unless we have political freedom [loud applause]. We must have both together. I say, they who are endeavouring to fasten upon us a body of nominal Christian teachers to infuse into the hearts of the people of all the towns and villages, that which is contrary to the Word of God, and which brings glory to man, and detracts from the honour of the Redeemer—I say, those who are doing this are calling upon every man who feels the slightest interest in the progress of our Lord's kingdom, to stand up and not be afraid, though he should be stripped of all his worldly possessions, of life itself—to stand up in every sphere in which Providence has given him the least political influence, on the hustings, at the poll-booth, in the Legislature, or wherever his voice can be heard, and proclaim that this great system is a delusion, a mockery, and a snare [loud applause]. Well, then, not to detain you long—we must cut off all our alliances with political parties. We must just be content, as Dissenters, to begin the political world over again, and to begin in a very small way, for, depend upon it, if we act upon this plan we shall be a ridiculous minority—it may be, for longer than is pleasant to our feelings. No man amongst us likes contempt; aye, and to expose (as many friends will point out the impolicy of doing) our weakness as a party. But unless we are content to go through this humiliation, I do not think we are quite up to the mark—I do not think we are quite fit for the work. If we cannot just take the sling and the stone, and go forth against the giant in the name of our God, not trusting to the armour of Saul, which only encumbers us, I think we have not yet rightly apprehended the position in which we are placed by Divine Providence, or the magnitude of those interests which have been entrusted to our care. We must be content, then, to be a very little party, standing upon the ground of truth, and banded together in cordial attachment to that truth. We must not merely stand upon our principles, but must make them known. We must be an active party—an energetic party—a party that must use all wisdom, discretion, and prudence, as to the proper mode of propagating our principles—a party who are united in reference to the obligation incumbent on us to give our principles effect in our preaching and in our proclamations. If we will only be content to take this low position—high position I call it—high in all moral aspects—high in the estimation of the great Master of the kingdom—if we will only take this modest position, stand upon our principles, and put forward men for them where we can, and fight for them, and be content with defeat [hear]—if we will put forward men, and refuse to vote for others who do not represent our principles, and let our refusal be known to proceed from attachment to those principles, if we will one

work on this plan, and be active, and energetic, and self-denying, before ten years are over our heads we shall be the strongest party in the kingdom [cheers]. But let us not suppose we are to do it all at once. I say ten years; that's my calculation, it may be twenty. But if we do not go to the work with a solemn determination to go to it once for all, to carry it on to victory, though we be but few and small, and insignificant; if we have not this trust and confidence in our principles, and in Him who presides over the regulation of all events, and in the certainty of ultimate success, we are not up to the work which has been assigned us. These are suggestions which have occurred to my mind, whilst I have been sitting here contemplating with deep interest this assembly, and the position and the work upon which you have entered. Go forward, I entreat you, go forward. You have taken your position. If you retreat from it; if you shrink in the slightest degree; nay, if you are inactive; if you don't make progress, at all events so far as will indicate your own earnestness and purity of motive, disgrace and ignominy will be upon you. You cannot expect the blessing of the Most High, unless you go to the work with the full determination under his guidance to carry it to ultimate success. Go on, then, I do entreat you. There are many who will look up to you, and look up to you with admiration for the example that you set them. All things are under the guidance of Him who is identified, in our judgment at least, with the principles we hold. Whatever may be the mere temporary signs of the present day, we yet see other signs and wider symptoms breaking forth here and there, showing themselves in the political firmament, all of them conspiring to point forward to a not very distant day, when every ecclesiastical power connected with the administration of civil affairs, shall be sundered from it, and when those who now glory in the State, as the only support of the Church, will have to give up their dependence, and trust merely to the merits of God's truth and eternal principle.

The speech was listened to with intense emotion, and the silence during the whole time of its delivery was so profound, that Mr. Miall's voice, though somewhat deficient in volume, was heard clearly at a great distance. It was followed by prolonged applause.

It was now late, and the company were beginning to retire; but before they dispersed, the Chairman proposed three questions,

First. Do you approve of the resolutions passed this morning, and adopt as your own the principles which have been pleaded for to night? Assent was shown by a forest of hands. Do you pledge yourselves to avow these principles, and to sustain the cause in which we are embarked? Assent was again manifested by a show of hands, almost the whole company simultaneously rising. Do you thank the deputation? This question was answered by the warmest demonstration of applause. Thanks by acclamation were then voted to the chairman, and the vast assembly separated.

PAYMENT OF ALL SECTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(From the Manchester Times.)

It is curious to observe that the arguments adduced here in support of State assistance to schoolmasters, are urged in Australia in support of State payment to all the ministers of religion. We have before us the *Adelaide Observer*, of August 22nd, containing the report of a debate in the Legislative Council on a motion: "That the sum of £1,110 10s. be introduced into the supplementary estimates for 1846, to be divided amongst the different sects of professing Christians, in proportion to their numbers, according to the census returns." Mr. Morphet, the mover of the grant, spoke as if he had been a reader of the *Manchester Guardian*. In reference to an objection which had been urged—that violence was done to the conscience by forcing any man to pay for the support of a religion which he disbelieved, he said he "could not see this, as each sect would be allowed to apply its own share to educational purposes, and would be, in effect, receiving back exactly what its members paid, and contributing nothing to the support of any other denomination!" The Colonial Secretary said he could not understand why persons who willingly paid for policemen should object to pay for parsons! The Advocate-General said that the principle of the grant was in full accordance with what had been received by the purest churches; that "he was sure that had they here, which they were not very likely to have, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, it would be quite agreeable to his views;" and that the Presbyterian Synod of Ulster had publicly approved of the *Regium Donum*; "now this grant," he added, "was in fact a *Regium Donum*, for it was freely given, and without condition." So far does a bad example spread! The motion was carried, only two members having voted against it; and then this little discussion arose:—

Major O'Halloran moved that the persons professing the Jewish faith should be included in the grant. They were, as a body, highly respectable; had all the privileges of British subjects, and had been always found loyal and peaceable. They contributed largely to the revenue, and had as much right as others to participate in the grant. They worshipped the same God as ourselves, and he trusted there would be no opposition to his motion, particularly as the Registrar-General, and the Colonial Secretary had expressed a wish that all should equally partake of the advantages of the measure. The Advocate General seconded the motion. —Mr. Morphet: The amount must be altered, then. In point of form, the hon. member is out of order; but I should be very glad to see the principle of his suggestion carried out. He might make a substantive motion for a grant of £5 16s. for the Jews.—His Excellency: There is an objection to that, as it would be giving the Jews twice as much as the Christians. It should be £2 18s. for the half-year.—The Colonial Secretary: I must object to this. It will look so ridiculous in the estimates, to see such a trifle as a separate item; and it cannot be of the slightest use to them.—Major O'Halloran: I only wish to establish the precedent. It is true we have but fifty-eight Jews here at present, but we may have more. I have a great objection to partial legislation.—Captain Bagot: The Jews have as much right to their share as Christians have; and I confess, I can in no manner see my way out of the difficulty.—The Colonial Secretary not pressing his objection, the motion was carried.—His Excellency: And do you mean to propose Pagans?—Captain Bagot: Most assuredly; all who contribute.—Major O'Halloran: Certainly. I have been in all parts of the world, and have seen much of the natives of

India, and bear my testimony that more upright and honest men do not exist.

As the *Regium Donum* in England and Ireland is urged as a reason for the endowment of all religions in Adelaide, so shall we have the Adelaide endowment urged as a reason for the endowment of all sects at home—Christian or Jew, Socialist or Mormonite, Pagan or Turk; we shall have a scheme for taxing every body for every body's priest; and should a simple-minded Methodist, Independent or Baptist complain, we shall have an Exeter Bishop and a Manchester Editor telling him how unreasonable he is, seeing that he might, if he liked, share in the plunder.

ANTI-STATE CHURCH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.—At a large and respectfully attended meeting, held in the British School-room, Southminster, on Wednesday week, Mr. C. Winter, pastor of the Independent Church, was unanimously appointed delegate to the Anti-State Church Conference, to be held at the London Tavern, early in May. Mr. Winter delivered a lecture on the Fundamental Principle of the Association, to which deep attention was given. We understand that at a meeting of the friends and members of the Bristol Anti-State Church Association, convened by circular, at Newfoundland-street chapel, on Friday last, the following individuals were nominated as delegates to the approaching triennial Conference at London:—Messrs. R. Norris, B. Hillyard, J. Shoard, E. S. Robinson, J. Cuzner, A. N. Langdon, and the Rev. Mr. Thomas, Baptist Minister of Fishponds. The gentlemen are delegated by signature, and we are informed that the requisite number of signatures is fast filling up.—*Bristol Mercury*.

MALDON, ESSEX.—The congregational church meeting in Cromwell-hall, have appointed Mr. Henry Vincent, of London, and Mr. James Stow, of Maldon, delegates to the Educational Conference, to assemble in London on the 13th.

Mr. W. Smith, the minister, and Mr. James Robins, have been appointed by the Independent church of Dartford, Kent, as the deputation to the forthcoming Anti-state-church Conference; and we hear that the appointments from various parts of the country are very numerous.

THE LATE FAST.—The following notice was issued by Messrs. Courtauld and Co., of Braintree, to their workpeople, on the occasion of "The Proclamation for a Public Fast." Their business went on as usual:—

As we cannot acknowledge the right of any Government to command and enforce by punishments, what such Government may, either truly or untruly, call a religious duty;

As we think the Proclamation of this Fast an act of gross superstition;

And as we think it a most shocking and impious presumption for any human being or for any Government to promise, as in the words of this proclamation, "the favour of Almighty God" to those who do as such human being, or such Government may see fit to command—and to dare, as in the words of this Proclamation, to threaten with "the wrath and indignation" of Almighty God, whosoever may dispute the rightfulness of these their commands;

We shall not close our Factories, nor give any heed to this Proclamation.

Nevertheless, if there be any of our workpeople who see this matter in a different light, and who feel a conscientious obligation to observe this Fast—such persons are free to stay away from the factories upon the appointed day—with this friendly warning, however, from their employers, that they do not fall into the miserable hypocrisy of pretending to keep a religious Fast, if, in fact, they make it merely a holiday.

Remember, then, that we do not on this occasion give a holiday to any of the hands; but that to those, if any, who truly feel a religious obligation to observe the public Fast and Humiliation and to leave their work that they may do so—full liberty is given.

SAMUEL COURTAULD, TAYLORS, and COURTAULD.
March 22nd, 1847.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—March 10.—At a meeting of the Senate of the University of London, specially convened, to consider a motion, of which Dr. Jerrard had given long notice, for compulsory examination in Scripture, Literature, and History,—there were presented Memorials in favour of the scheme, from Wesley College, Sheffield; Stepney College, London; Wesleyan College, Taunton; Queen's College, Birmingham; Airedale College, Yorkshire; Baptist College, Bristol; Huddersfield College, Yorkshire; High-bury College, London; King's College, London; Cheshunt College, Middlesex; Spring-hill College, Birmingham. Against the scheme, from Manchester New College; St. Cuthbert's College; University College; Prior-park College; Stonyhurst College; St. Mary College; St. Edmund College, Ware; St. Gregory College, Downside. Dr. Jerrard did not bring forward the motion of which he had given notice. It is, therefore, for the present at least, withdrawn. It is supposed that this course was very much influenced by the threatened withdrawal of all the Roman Catholic Colleges from the University, in case his proposals were adopted.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.—We have reason to believe, by information from a source upon which we place much confidence, that early in June next the public business of the session will be brought to a close, and that the dissolution will instantly follow. We are also informed that a measure will be introduced to enable the promoters of private bills which shall not pass in consequence of the early dissolution, to apply to the new Parliament, which will meet in October, and where such bills will be taken up in the stages they may have arrived at during the present session.—*Bristol Mercury*.

DEMOLITION OF THE OLD HOUSE OF LORDS.—On Wednesday the demolition of the old House of Lords was begun. It is for the purpose of making the necessary entrance into the new houses for the re-assembling of their lordships after the Easter recess.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

SANATORY REFORM.

[In the postscript of our last number we simply mentioned that on Tuesday se'night, Lord Morpeth introduced the government bill for improving the Health of Towns. We now subjoin an outline of the principal provisions of the measure, and of the discussion which followed its introduction.]

LORD MORPETH commenced his statement by briefly recapitulating what had been done by former administrations, in reference to the important subject involved in the bill which he sought to introduce. He then entered into an elaborate statistical statement, compiled from the most authentic sources, showing the comparative rates of mortality between the towns and the rural districts of the country, after which he proceeded to mention the main provisions of the measure which the government had prepared "to remedy what they could, and mitigate what they could not entirely remove." With regard to the proposed remedial measure, the necessity of the case was too pressing, the difficulties to be encountered too numerous, the weight and number of opposing interests too formidable to admit of dispensing with any assistance he might have received, and from putting the exigencies of the case fairly, freely, and honestly, before the House and the public [hear, hear, hear]. From the statement which had been drawn up by Dr. Guy, the physician to King's College Hospital, and combined from the reports of the Registrar-General, the relative mortality in the town and country districts is as follows:—

Population to the square mile, country, 199; town, 5,100. Annual deaths in 1,000,000: country, 19,300; town, 27,073; annual excess in town districts, 7,773. Rate of mortality, country, 1 in 52; town, 1 in 37. He also supplied further particulars as to the rate of mortality generally:—England, 1 in 45; Isle of Wight, 1 in 58; Anglesea, 1 in 62; London, 1 in 39; Leeds and Birmingham, 1 in 37; Sheffield, 1 in 33; Bristol, 1 in 32; Manchester (Union), 1 in 30; Liverpool (parish), 1 in 29.

Thus the inhabitants of London, compared with England at large, lose eight years of their lives; of Liverpool, 19. The population of the large towns in England being 4,000,000, the annual loss is between 31,000 and 32,000. Dr. Guy also said—

The total number of deaths in England and Wales during the year 1841, was 343,847, or somewhat less than 1,000 a day. Now, this is at the rate of one death in 46 inhabitants. But if, instead of one death in 46 inhabitants, there had been one death in 50 inhabitants, or 2 per cent., no less than 25,407 lives would have been saved. Now, all men who have paid any attention to this subject agree in the opinion that, by proper sanitary measures, it is possible to insure such a state of health among the community at large that the mortality shall not exceed that proportion. If the sanitary state of the entire country could be raised to the condition of the most healthy counties, so that instead of one death in 46 inhabitants there should be only one death in 54, we should have an annual saving of no less than 49,349 lives, or about one-seventh of the whole number of deaths!

Dr. Southwood Smith also said—

"In some localities there was not a single house in which fever had not prevailed, and, in some cases, not a single room in a single house in which there had not been fever. The districts in which fever prevails are as familiar to the physicians of the Fever Hospital as their own names. In every district in which fever returns frequently and prevails extensively, there is uniformly bad sewerage, a bad supply of water, a bad supply of scavengers, and a consequent accumulation of filth. Some idea may be formed of the evils which our negligence in the matter of sewerage and drainage inflicts, when I tell you that the annual deaths from typhus fever amounts to 16,000, and the attacks of this loathsome disease to between 150,000 and 200,000."

Further still, Dr. Lyon Playfair calculates that for every unnecessary death there are 28 cases of unnecessary sickness; consequently, in our large towns, above 700,000 cases of unnecessary sickness. The same calculations in the metropolis would save 10,000 deaths, and 250,000 cases of unnecessary sickness. One of the reports of the Registrar-General states that—

"Within the last three months 10,000 lives have been destroyed in a part only of England by causes which there is every reason to believe might be removed. That notwithstanding the improvements effected when cholera was last epidemic, the foul untrapped sewers, and the ground areas of the best streets emit noisome smells, volatile poisons, which are as fatal as arsenic to a certain number of persons."

The principal provisions of the bill were founded upon the bill popularly known as Lord Lincoln's bill, which made use of the agency of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for carrying it into effect, with the occasional aid of the privy council. Considering the many and onerous duties already devolving upon the Home Secretary, the Government were of opinion that upon some other quarter should rest the responsibility of superintending the carrying out of the bill. They regarded the whole matter as important and copious enough to justify the constitution of a special board for the purpose of superintending it, to be analogous to some extent with the railway board of last session, and composed of five members, three of them to be paid members, with the chief Commissioner of the Woods and Forests for the time being as *ex-officio* chairman of the board. The new board was to be designated the Board of Health and Public Works, and would be empowered to direct an inquiry into what was termed the sanitary condition of any town or district, to recommend the appointment of inspectors who should go down into the various districts of the country to institute the requisite inquiries, to make sufficient and adequate surveys, to point out the direction of streams and water-courses, and to advise as to the proper area on which any works which might be considered necessary should be carried on. It was intended that the functions of the bill should be chiefly carried out through the instrumentality of the local authorities, and the Government were of opinion that all the powers created by it should, in subordination to the board, be centered in those bodies already chosen by the citizens at large for the good government of their respective communities. There were no bodies to whom the functions of the bill

could be more appropriate than to the municipal corporations and town-councils. The bill was not to extend to Ireland or Scotland. It was not intended, however, as was done in Lord Lincoln's bill, to exclude London from the operation of the bill. To give full effect to the bill, it would be necessary that as soon as it came into operation all conflict of jurisdiction should cease, and that the crown should be empowered by order in council, to get rid of boards of trustees and other local boards whose powers might come into collision with the powers created by the bill [hear, hear]. There were provisions in the bill for directing the mode of liquidating debts already incurred, and of dealing with contracts already made, and for giving sufficient remuneration to those holding offices. This would destroy the existing local acts, and a swarm of local trustees; but the Government had to settle in their minds what were the best local bodies to which they could entrust the powers under this bill, and having settled that in what they held to be the best manner, they could not heed who might be displaced, nor what local trustees might be deprived of power, but would be obliged to disregard other considerations and remonstrances. They might, it was true, hear of municipal bodies who had performed their duties in a fit and proper manner, and local bodies who had acted well—they might hear of commissioners of sewers who had given dissatisfaction, and of commissioners of paving who had given satisfaction; but having appointed the town-councillors as the responsible bodies, the responsibility with which they were to be invested would, he hoped, ensure, on the part of those who elected them, that they would select fit and intelligent persons to discharge those duties. An inspector would be appointed to visit towns and districts, to see what was going on, to examine plans and surveys, and to make reports to the Central Board. Besides this person, who would be an engineer, it was proposed to appoint a medical inspector also. At first sight it seemed to the Government that it would be desirable to have a medical inspector, not in any way connected with the towns in which his duties were to be performed. In addition to this, the town-councillors were to appoint a local surveyor, to be approved of by the Central Board, and who was to be a civil engineer, and who would have to superintend the works. The bill would also contain a power to appoint an inspector of nuisances, who would see to the removal of substances that may be prejudicial to the public health. Provisions would also be incorporated in the bill for preventing the nuisance of smoke. The bill would also contain provisions for the proper ventilation of buildings, and the commissioners would be empowered to light the towns, and to enter into contracts with gas companies, if they thought proper, for that purpose. It was unnecessary to say that water was indispensable for drainage. Without water to carry away the refuse lying in the drains, the filth there accumulated would soon become an intolerable nuisance. The use, therefore, of tubular sewers and water to carry off their contents was indispensable. Dr. Oldis says, that "the water retained in the rooms of the poor for domestic purposes soon becomes covered with black scum, and there is generally a filthy accumulation on the surface of the water-butts. The fatigue of fetching a proper supply, which ought to be forty-five gallons a day for a cottage, is most wearing." With a view, therefore, to the due supply of water to every house, the commissioners would be empowered to make contracts with water companies. Provision was also made that in case of any permanent works, by which an unusual amount of expense might probably be incurred, there should be a power given to borrow money, and to levy principal and interest by yearly instalments, not from the owner, but from the occupier; and in this manner they hoped to remove what they considered to be the chief obstacle to improvements in town, which was the opposition to owners to what they consider the serious expense attending them. It was this question of rates which had hitherto been the direct, and for some time to come, must be, he feared, the indirect obstacle to proceeding with sanitary undertakings. There was something in the very sound of "rates" which militated against health, industry, content, and all the virtues. Some money, however, must be raised. It was a necessary tribute which property must pay. It must be paid in the first instance by those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, though it would not be long before they would find the inestimable advantages which improved health confers. He believed, however, that even on the bare ground of economy, the advantages which would arise were not to be slighted. Dr. Lyon Playfair states—"The loss from unnecessary death and sickness for England and Wales at £11,000,000, and the United Kingdom at £20,000,000." His lordship, after reading a variety of other statistics, in order to show the imperative necessity for the proposed measure, concluded by saying he dare not trouble the House with any further extracts. He felt that, in a matter so large and so complicated, many imperfections would be discovered, and that many oversights had occurred in the bill which they proposed to bring in. He could only say that it had been framed with an honest intention, and with the single view of the public good, and most thankful should he be if the measure, after undergoing consideration by Parliament, and receiving ultimately the sanction of the Throne, should, in its results, effect in some degree what they aimed at—namely, to diminish in some degree those noxious influences which now so painfully afflicted so large a proportion of their towns and cities—to hunt down to their sources, if they could, the prevailing causes of disease—to let in pure air and supply pure water—to wage war wherever they could against filth and stench, and their attendant consequences, bodily weakness and depression, fever, and the death-dealing pestilence, and thus they hoped to lengthen the lives and add to the happiness of all classes of their fellow-countrymen. The noble lord concluded by moving for leave to bring in the bill.

Mr. MACKINNON seconded the motion, and eulogized the measure. But, regretting that it did not include any prohibition against interment in towns, he asked whether a separate bill would be brought in for that purpose?

Lord MORPETH replied, that the bill was considered by the Government large enough as it stood. The subject of intramural interments was, however, under consideration; and he hoped that a bill in respect to it would be brought in. Mr. MACKINNON: "Within the present session?" No reply.

Colonel WOOD also approved of the measure; but objected to the unconstitutional power conferred upon the Privy Council, of repealing local acts of Parliament.

The Earl of LINCOLN likewise spoke in general commendation of the bill; observing, however, that most of the provisions were those of his own bill. But he took some objection on points of detail. He looked with jealousy to the proposition for paid Commissioners; and thought that, under the new modelling of the Poor-law Commission, the duties might have been transferred to it. He admired the courage, but deprecated the rashness, of Lord Morpeth, in comprising London in his bill. He did not see why in unincorporated towns all the Commissioners should not be elected by the rate-payers, as well as in the incorporated towns.

Approval of the measure was also expressed by Mr. AGLONBY, Sir WILLIAM CLAY (who spoke with alarm, however, of the various "interests" concerned in the metropolis), Mr. BROTHERTON, and Mr. HUME. Mr. Hume paid no respect to the interests:—

Government should regard the interests of the many in dealing with the conflicting and selfish associations that stood in the way of all these improvements. The object to be aimed at was not to establish a gas company or a water company for those who could afford to pay for such things, but to provide for the mass of the operative population those requisites to health of which they had hitherto been deprived. Those who would be the real friends of the working classes must grapple with the difficulties that might be opposed to this measure, a measure which would be the truest economy if it contributed to keep the mass of the people in health.

Mr. GREENE suggested that the twenty local improvement bills before the House should be kept back to await the general measure.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

IRISH LANDLORDS.

On Wednesday, a conversation arose respecting the conduct of the Irish landlords. It was begun by Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER HAMILTON. He cited a letter which he had received from Mr. Longfield, a landlord resident near Mallow, who had been attacked by Sir Benjamin Hall. Sir Benjamin had said that Mr. Longfield, out of an income of £6,000 a year, gave only £15 as his subscription to the relief committee of Mallow. Mr. Longfield now stated in contradiction, that his property in the neighbourhood only returned him £436 a year, and that he had given £30 to the relief committee of Kanturk Union (Mallow). Mr. Longfield's whole income is not more than £3,000 a year, and he has already subscribed £250 for the relief of the poor in different relief committees of Ireland, besides his other exertions.

Mr. LEFROY added, that Mr. Longfield is supplying 9,000 persons per week with soup, besides a great expenditure in clothes and other modes of relief. Another Irish landlord, in Sligo, who has been dangerously ill from his anxiety and exertions, has employed 350 persons since last winter; he has a soup shop, besides giving away a great deal at his own house; sees that everything is done to insure the cultivation of the soil; and employs fifty-four women. A nobleman in Roscommon gave £500 at an early period of the famine; has subscribed several sums of money to relief in soup committees; since the beginning of the calamity he has supplied his labourers (200 or 300) with cocoa in the morning and soup at mid-day, in addition to their usual daily wages; soup to their families two or three times a week; has supplied more than 300 families with different articles of clothing and bed-clothes; and has given wheat and rye gratuitously to the extent of several hundred pounds worth.

Mr. POULETT SCOPE said that these charges were not new. The same were made at the time of the cholera. In 1832 the landlords of Skibbereen were applied to: four only sent answers, and they contributed £11 5s., their entire rental being £6,000 a year. One landlord, who possessed £4,000 a year, had not given a farthing, though his tenants participated in the fund. The total subscription, which was £47 5s., came almost entirely from individuals resident in the towns.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL held in his hand two letters from reverend gentlemen connected with that part of the country, telling him that what he had said was quite true. A return for which he had moved would make all this clear.

A separate discussion was at the same time carried on respecting this return; Mr. YOUNG complaining that the terms of the order for it were such as to produce an unfair return. It called for the amount of subscriptions and public grants compared: it would therefore show the ostentatious subscriber at an advantage as compared with many persons who exerted themselves in other ways. Sir GEORGE GREY justified the return, on the ground of precedent; it being usual to exact accounts of private subscriptions when public grants were made. The names of the subscribers might be withheld. Mr. LABOUCHERE undertook that the returns should not be laid on the table after the recess until Mr. Young should have had an opportunity of making a statement in order to an alteration of the terms.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The HOUSE OF COMMONS adjourned at the close of the usual sitting on Wednesday, till Monday, the 12th April.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated, that he should proceed with the Navy Estimates in Committee of Supply on the 24th; with the Miscellaneous Estimates on the following Monday. The Poor Relief Supervision (Ireland) Bill would be postponed till a future day; and, on the Friday after the recess, he should move the third reading of the Irish Poor-law Amendment Bill, and of the Landed Property (Ireland) Bill.

JEWISH DISABILITIES AND OATHS.—In reply to Mr. Trelawney, on Wednesday, Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated, that it was not the intention of Government to bring

in any bill limited to the object of removing the disabilities of the Jews; but he wished to take further time to consider whether it would be possible during the present session to introduce a bill which might make some alterations which appeared to be rendered necessary by the Acts of last session, and particularly in respect to the taking of oaths.

THE REVENUE.

An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain, in the Years and Quarters ended the 5th of April, 1846 and 1847, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

	YEARS ENDED APRIL 5th,			
	1846.	1847.	Increase	Decrease.
Customs	£ 17,664,618	£ 18,796,620	1,132,002	....
Excise	11,886,085	12,547,657	661,572	....
Stamps	7,095,521	7,062,828	....	32,693
Taxes	4,224,039	4,357,158	33,119	....
Property Tax	5,084,741	5,464,581	379,840	....
Post-office	768,000	820,000	52,000	....
Crown Lands	130,000	112,000	....	18,000
Miscellaneous	188,888	318,161	129,273	....
Total Ordinary Revenue	47,041,893	49,379,005	2,337,112	50,693
China Money	750,859	667,644	....	83,215
Imprest and other Monies	170,846	193,497	22,651	....
Repayments of Advances	1,516,887	778,506	....	738,381
Total Income	49,480,484	51,018,652	1,538,168	872,389
Deduct Decrease .....	....	....	872,389	....
Increase on the Year .....	....	....	1,538,168	....

	QUARTERS ENDED APRIL 5th,			
	1846.	1847.	Increase	Decrease.
Customs	£ 3,961,918	£ 4,447,673	485,755	....
Excise	1,626,458	1,652,865	26,407	....
Stamps	1,685,868	1,817,282	131,414	....
Taxes	146,142	130,892	....	15,250
Property Tax	1,963,882	2,033,072	69,190	....
Post-office	215,000	219,000	4,000	....
Crown Lands	45,000	37,000	....	8,000
Miscellaneous	91,522	92,593	1,071	....
Total Ordinary Revenue	9,735,790	10,430,377	717,837	23,250
China Money .....	....	....	....	....
Imprest and other Monies	52,909	53,859	950	....
Repayments of Advances	456,473	164,568	....	291,905
Total Income	10,245,172	10,648,804	403,632	315,155
Deduct Decrease .....	....	....	315,155	....
Increase on the Quarter .....	....	....	403,632	....

Income and Charge on the Consolidated Fund, in the Quarters ended April 5, 1846 and 1847.

INCOME.	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL,	
	1846.	1847.
Customs	£ 3,961,918	£ 4,447,673
Excise	1,626,458	1,652,865
Stamps	1,685,868	1,817,282
Taxes	146,142	130,892
Property Tax	1,963,882	2,033,072
Post-office	215,000	219,000
Crown Lands	45,000	37,000
Miscellaneous	91,522	92,593
Imprest and other Monies	52,909	53,859
Repayments of Advances	456,473	164,568
To Cash brought to this Account, being the first instalment of Loan of Eight Millions..	10,260,514	10,661,417
	10,260,514	11,621,417
CHARGE.	QUARTERS ENDED 5th APRIL,	
	1846.	1847.
Permanent Debt	£ 5,631,691	£ 5,594,667
Terminable Annuities	1,314,235	1,310,291
Interest on Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund .....	....	....
Sinking Fund	954,410	711,577
Civil List	98,085	98,255
Other Charges on the Consolidated Fund	338,785	337,846
For Advances (including £2,800,000 in present Quarter to Ireland, per act 9 and 10 Vic., cap. 107)	140,000	2,940,000
Total Charge	8,477,206	10,992,636
Surplus	1,783,308	628,781
	10,260,514	11,621,417
Surplus Revenue on the 5th January, 1847, after providing for the Charges of that Quarter, was .....	....	1,365,455
To which is to be added the Surplus of the Consolidated Fund, as above stated, on the present Quarter .....	....	628,781
Amount issued in Quarter ended 5th April, 1847, in part of the Sums granted by Parliament out of the Consolidated Fund, for Supply Services .....	....	1,994,236
The probable Amount of Exchequer Bills required to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund, for the Quarter ended 5th April, 1847 .....	....	5,461,196
	....	3,466,960

STATUE TO THE LATE SIR FOWELL BUXTON.—A working model of the statue to the late Sir Fowell Buxton which is to be erected in Westminster Abbey, has just been completed. This testimonial has been well supported by subscriptions, amongst which are contributions from thousands of negroes in Africa and the West Indies.

DR. BUCKLAND, Dean of Westminster, has been elected a Trustee of the British Museum, in the room of the late Duke of Northumberland.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

INDIA.

The overland mail brings accounts from Bombay to the 2nd of March. There was general tranquillity throughout our Indian possessions. The news from Lahore mentions the discovery of a conspiracy, in which the Queen-mother and the Maharajah, Gholab Singh, are suspected of having a hand, to take away the life of Sirdar Tej Singh, the friend of the British. Colonel Lawrence's administration, though generally popular, does not suit the Ranee, who finds the freedom of her movements placed under some restraint. The Resident had given great offence by interfering to stop a projected pilgrimage upon which the Queen-mother and young Dhuleep were bent. Lahore is itself quiet. The European denizens are busily employed in building. A racket-court and races had been added to their amusements. The intelligence from Cabool is rather warlike. Akbar Khan had moved troops in the direction of Jellalabad, with the avowed object of attacking the Ghilzie, and of securing the person of Uzeer Khan, as a hostage for the good conduct of his father. Dost Mohammed remained quiet; and his coffers were said to be by no means plentifully lined. Scinde continued tranquil. Sir Charles Napier reached Hyderabad on the 11th of February. He had subsequently revisited the scene of his great victory. The King of Oude died on the 13th of February; but, by the able management of Colonel Richmond, the Resident, the eldest son of the deceased monarch was quietly installed as his successor. The winter in the north of India had been unusually severe. At Simla, the snow fell to the depth of three feet. The Governor-General was still on his tour of inspection. He had deposed the Rajahs of Roopur and Alvo—the former for active treachery, and the latter for "lukewarmness," during the late campaign. On the other hand, he had rewarded the Rajah of Puttialah, for his fidelity, with a piece of confiscated Lahore land worth £1,000 per annum. Lord Hardinge had put a stop to all kinds of official labour on the Sunday. The reduction of the army was proceeding: it is intended to lessen its numerical strength by 40,000 men. Four regiments are about to return to Europe; namely, the Ninth, Seventeenth, Thirty-ninth, and Sixty-third.

ITALY.

The real nature of the Roman censorship law is said to have been misunderstood in some quarters. The recent edict is not a new measure imposed for the first time, but a considerable modification of an existing restrictive law. The objection to it therefore is, that it does not go far enough; the fact being, that it is a considerable amelioration of the former stringency. The Board of Censorship, hitherto arbitrary in its decisions, is now placed under the direction of a tribunal; and the censors are in future to be laymen instead of clergymen: all the new censors are literary men of some distinction, professing moderate liberal opinions, with the exception of the President, who is described as an intolerable monk.

Galignani's Messenger reports that a conspirator has been discovered in Rome; a young man, who was first arrested in a coffee-house, for speaking disrespectfully of the Pope. He called himself Count Baldi, a native of Fano; and in his lodgings several poniards, air-guns, and other prohibited arms, were found. He at first would give no explanations; but at last stated that he had intended to assassinate Pius the Ninth on the day on which his Holiness should distribute religious banners to the different quarters of Rome. He is said to be implicated in the conspiracy recently discovered at Rome and Ancona.

Movements are again apprehended in Piedmont and Tuscany; the Grand Duke was increasing his army.

IMMIGRATION FROM AFRICA.—Commander Potbury, of the *Avenger*, is appointed to command the *Growler* steam-sloop, now under preparation at Deptford to convey African emigrants direct from the Kroo coast to Trinidad and Guiana. The *Growler* is fitted to accommodate about 300 passengers. She will proceed first to Sierra Leone, where she will take on board an emigration-officer appointed to select emigrants of the proper description.

PROFESSORSHIP OF CHINESE.—A professorship of Chinese has been established in King's-college, London, for the benefit of those amongst the students who, either as missionaries or in any other capacity, purpose proceeding to the British possessions in that country.

EXECUTION OF JOHN PLATTS, AT DERBY.—The execution of John Platts, for murder, took place at Derby, on Thursday. Long before the time fixed for execution had arrived, the square fronting the county gaol was crowded with people, and the hills in the south and west were also secured by the mob, as convenient places from whence the tragic scene could be observed. At five minutes to twelve o'clock the bell began to toll, and the crowded throng, hushed into silence, breathlessly awaited the appearance of the culprit. In about ten minutes the mournful procession arrived at the scaffold, which being erected on the top of the prison, could be plainly seen for miles round. When the hangman had arranged the fatal cord, Platts turned round and shook hands with Mr. Sims, the governor, and the chaplain, who asked him if what he had stated was correct; he replied that it was, and hoped God would have mercy on his soul. The cap was then pulled over his face, and the clergyman commenced reading the funeral service. The bolt was then drawn, and the crowd quietly dispersed in a few minutes afterwards. Just previous to the execution, Platts signed a confession. It is to the purport, that a man named Morley (since dead), another man whose name is withheld, and Platts, arranged the murder, which was effected in a stable, by blows from a spade struck by Morley; that after the murder, the body having been flung *entire* into the cess-pool, he (Platts) returned to his shop, where the remembrance of the deed so agitated him, that he fell down half-senseless, struck a lantern, and cut his hand in the fall, hitting his head against a block; the blow and the groans, sworn to by witnesses as heard in his shop, proceeded from himself.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PROMOTING THE REAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT.

The first public meeting of the members and friends of the National Alliance for promoting the real Representation of the people in Parliament, was held on Wednesday evening, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. The spacious room was densely crowded.

WILLIAM HOWITT, Esq., on taking the chair, said:—There was no country in the world so covered with abuses as this country [hear]—they were as thick as blackberries; they were in equal abundance as our wealth; they were deeply ingrained in the frame of society; they were extended as our power; they extended with our possessions, and with our great manufacturing system [hear]. These abuses of the constitution and rights of Englishmen had, he was sorry to say, sprung up and grown most in these latter years, when they should have been most rapidly eradicated. Since the Revolution of 1688, when it was declared that all power was founded in the people, and to be exercised for the people, we had gone on paying attention to anything but our constitutional rights [hear, hear]. We had allowed the aristocracy to become great through the industry of the people; we had allowed them to usurp all the power of the constitution, and to exercise that power in the wickedest and most detrimental manner. We had for ages allowed them to go on plunging us into wars with every part of the globe; and by these wars we have covered ourselves with debts, from the effects of which we were now suffering [hear, hear]. It was an established fact, that while the exports of this country amounted to but about fifty millions of money annually, the taxes which had to be raised amounted to more than that sum. Thus it was that we had at once to strike a balance between the great profits of the trade and property of this nation, to discharge the expenses of Government, and to strike this balance against the labour of every man in this country; and through this means also, the profits of the labouring classes were ground to the minimum, while they are labouring under this abuse; but this was only one abuse out of a thousand; in fact, we wanted all kinds of reform; we wanted reform in Parliament [hear]; the reform which we had was a mere sham [hear, and cheers]; the reform which we had got was a mere aristocratical reform: it was, in words which Lord Denman applied to other circumstances, "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare" [cheers]. This reform called itself a reform for rightly representing the people of this country in Parliament, and yet out of thirty millions of population, not six hundred thousand voted for the election of members of Parliament; was that a representation fit for any country? ["No, no"]. They wanted then a reform in Parliament; they wanted to extend the suffrage to every man who paid taxes, directly or indirectly, in this kingdom [cheering]. As every man in this country, however humble or poor he might be, was called upon, if he only put a piece of bread and butter into his mouth, to pay taxes for this country, that man had a just claim to be represented in the Government of this country [loud cheers]. We wanted then a real reform in Parliament; but we wanted a reform in every thing else, in all the offices of Government; we wanted strict retrenchment throughout all these offices; we wanted a great reform in the Excise, and still greater in the Customs [hear]; we wanted a reform of our Criminal code [cheers], and of our Civil code; we wanted a reform in the tenure of land; we wanted the abolition of the law of primogeniture [continued cheers]. We wanted a repeal of the system of entail; we wanted free trade in land; we wanted a reform in trade; we had only recently begun to carry out the principles of free-trade; we had had one great triumph in the enactment of the repeal of the Corn-laws, but that would never enable this country to contend with its rivals abroad; we had still remaining all that dreadful mass of taxation which had been piled upon this country through a century and a half of most unjustifiable wars [cheers]. Let them once get a Parliament which really represented the people, and the work of reform would go on rapidly [cheers]. It was this work which they were met this evening to commence; what they had to do, as wise men, was at once to call upon the people of this country, to rally round this great question of Universal Suffrage [loud cheering].

Mr. Dick, the secretary, then stated that letters had been received from the under-mentioned gentlemen, who were unable to attend the meeting:—Dr. Bowring, M.P., absent in Wales; Mr. W. S. Crawford, M.P., absent in Ireland; Mr. Edward Miall, who had an engagement at Norwich; W. J. Fox, Esq., detained by ill-health; and Thomas Beggs, Esq., who had to deliver a lecture at Brighton. He also stated that he had received a letter from Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham, enclosing a check for £20 towards the funds of the Alliance [cheers].

Ebenezer Clarke, Esq., then proposed the following resolution:—

That the safety of a nation depends on the virtue and wisdom of its people, and upon a free Government, honestly and economically administered by representative institutions. That the House of Commons is not a fair representation of the people of Great Britain, because not above one in six of the adult male population can vote in the election of its members, and because the small and declining boroughs—whose elections are made at the dictation of aristocratic patrons—are put upon a level, in point of influence and political power, with the large and wealthy cities, boroughs and counties. That the industrious classes are excluded from the right to elect members, and are deprived of the privilege to sit in Parliament, by absurd property qualifications. That since the passing of the Reform Bill the vexatious operation of the tax-paying clauses has debared many thousands of men from the exercise of their undoubted rights; and the refusal of the Whig Government to repeal those clauses is evidence of strong hostility to the principles of popular progress. That the increasing intelligence of the people is an additional reason why their claim to the possession of their political rights should be at once admitted. That the disorganized state of political parties, and the reasons above specified, lead this meeting to resolve that the present is a favourable time for creating a national movement in favour of the full enfranchisement of all classes of the people.

He wished to add to the list of reforms mentioned by the Chairman, one other—the Church—[cheers]. The Church of England, as established, wanted most important reforms [hear]. Religion should be free as the air they breathed; free as the words they uttered; free as the corn they ate—[cheers].

Dr. Erss seconded the motion. The present, he

said, was the time for making a united effort. But in order to carry on the war, it was necessary that they should have the means; without those sinews they could do nothing; they could not employ persons to go through the country without money; but if they could get these means, they were satisfied that now was the time for action. It was time that they should assume the offensive; they had been too long on the defensive; they had been waiting till the enemy came to bayonet them, and then driving him off, when they ought to have marched on him, and bayoneted him [cheers].

The resolution was carried with but one dissentient.

HENRY VINCENT, on rising, was received with prolonged applause. The resolution he proposed was as follows:—

That this meeting cordially approves of the formation of the National Alliance for Promoting the real Representation of the People in Parliament, because it seeks to extend the suffrage to every man of full age, who is of sane mind, criminals excepted; to protect his vote by ballot; to provide equal electoral districts; to abolish property qualifications for members; to remunerate members for services performed; and to procure annual elections. This Alliance pledges itself to adopt none other than peaceful and legal modes of action, to rouse the people and to urge its claims upon the Legislature.

He rejoiced that the time was come for making an attempt to found an alliance in defence of these important principles; and though he was conscious that there might be many men whose minds were not yet made up as to the importance of going this length, to provide for the fair representation of the masses, he believed that the more the subject of popular representation was looked into—the more people strove to understand it, as expounded in this resolution—the more distinctly would it be discovered, that nothing short of this large and sweeping measure of change could give the people that popular power which was necessary to cut down that upas-tree to which reference had been made this night. This Alliance had been formed, not on any principle of hostility to other societies. They proposed to take these principles, and upon them to appeal to the country; and he was convinced, that if once they established a firm band of determined men in the metropolis, twelve months would not elapse before they should have a powerful association, composed of the working and middle classes, and sustained by the more liberal and independent of the Dissenting ministers throughout the kingdom [cheers]. After an earnest appeal to all who approved of their principles, to aid the Alliance with counsel, support, and contributions, and recommending an immediate appeal to the country for one or two thousand pounds, to aid their operations, he went on to say, that they required no clamour; they only wanted to show to their countrymen the evils under which they were labouring, to secure a ready hearing at the bar of public opinion, and a ready ratification of their noble principles. For himself, he was determined to persevere in this great cause; he was determined, as long as God gave him strength, to propagate the great principles of democratic liberty. It was time that we had done with the pride and selfishness of the aristocracy. We should apply the rules of the Gospel to our Government and Legislature, as well as to our private dealings; and, standing upon those eternal verities of the Gospel, we should be armed with a power with which the aristocracy would be unable to cope. Mr. Vincent resumed his seat amidst vociferous applause.

Mr. BONTENS having seconded the resolution, it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. CHARLES GILPIN moved the third resolution.

That the success of the Alliance will depend on the zeal, prudence, and self-sacrificing spirit of its members and supporters, also upon their willingness to contribute freely and continually to its funds. This meeting therefore appeals to the friends of reform to enrol their names as members of the Alliance, and to forward the amount of their subscriptions to the treasurer, that the machinery for an efficient popular movement may be at once provided, and active operations commenced.

As far as his influence went, he (Mr. Gilpin) cordially recommended this movement to the support of those assembled; and he did believe that if they could get such gatherings as this the country over, they would raise a voice that would yet shake the doors of St. Stephen, and let in light where gloom now prevailed, and before very long the right which they demanded would be accorded, if not willingly, yet reluctantly, to the united, peaceful, moral, consistent, and enlightened advocacy of the British people [great cheering].

THOMAS COOPER, the Chartist poet, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

After some further remarks from the Chairman, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to that gentleman, and three vehement cheers for the success of the National Alliance.

THE GREAT BRITAIN.—The breakwater to the Great Britain still continues to attract attention. An eyewitness informs us that several engineers and officers of the navy visited the ship on Monday and Tuesday; some of whom, on the spot, stated their opinion, that after the late gales, when the wind was in the worst possible quarter, and the sea terrifically high, they fully expected to find her destroyed. The contrary, however, has been the case; and if we except a large spar which was broken in two, the whole has stood well, and the seamen assured us the breakwater had admirably protected the ship.—*Irish paper.*

MURDER OF A HUSBAND BY HIS WIFE.—At Bury St. Edmund's Assizes, on Saturday week, Catherine Foster was tried for the murder of her husband, John Foster. The accused was only eighteen. In last November she married Foster, a farm-labourer; three weeks after, the man was taken ill, subsequently to eating a dumpling prepared by the prisoner; and next day he died. The symptoms of the illness denoted that poison had been swallowed; a fowl which ate a piece of the dumpling died; chemical analysis detected the mineral in the viscera of the man. The woman appeared, for some unknown cause, to have regretted her marriage with Foster. She was found guilty. On Monday, the sentence of death was pronounced; and it is remarked that the convict heard it without the least show of emotion of any kind.

DEPARTURE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

On Sunday morning, the 4th of April, a few friends from Glasgow, Perth, Dublin, Wrexham, Sheffield, Rochdale, and Manchester, took breakfast with Frederick Douglass at Brown's Temperance Hotel, Liverpool, and afterwards accompanied him to the *Cambria*. It will be observed from Mr. Douglass' letter below, that he has been deprived of sitting down at the same table with the other passengers, or mixing with the saloon company. The captain has given up his own cabin for the accommodation of our friend and brother, so that, so far as personal comfort is concerned, all is right; but this, however, does not affect the general question referred to in his letter. Although he occupies the apartments which the Governor-General of Canada lately occupied, still, to use his own language, in presence of fifteen of his friends in the cabin, "I would go a thousand times more cheerfully, of my own free choice, to the poorest hold in the ship than remain here, in consequence of the colour of my skin." He seemed to feel his position very keenly. "I feel, friends," said he, "and I cannot help it, that, in leaving this country I am going from home to a land of oppression and slavery—a land of manstealers!"

We have received the following letter from this eloquent and devoted missionary of freedom, on the strange proceedings of the Directors of the American Steam-ship *Cambria* :—

"Brown's Temperance Hotel,

"Clayton's-square, Liverpool, April 3rd, 1847.

"Mr. Editor.—I take up my pen to lay before you a few facts respecting an unjust proscription to which I find myself subjected on board the steam-ship, *Cambria*, to sail from this port at ten o'clock to-morrow morning for Boston, United States.

"On the 4th of March last, in company with George Moxhay, Esq., of the Hall of Commerce, London, I called upon Mr. Ford, the London agent of the Cunard line of steamers, for the purpose of securing a passage on board the steam-ship, *Cambria*, to Boston, United States. On inquiring the amount of the passage I was told £40 19s. I inquired further, if a second-class passage could be obtained? He answered, No: there was but one fare, all distinctions having been abolished. I then gave him £40 19s., and received from him in return a ticket, entitling me to berth No. 72 on board the steam-ship, *Cambria*, at the same time asking him if my colour would prove any barrier to my enjoying all the rights and privileges enjoyed by other passengers? He said, No. I then left the office, supposing all well, and thought nothing more of the matter till this morning, when, in company with a few friends, agreeably to public notice, I went on board the *Cambria* with my luggage, and on inquiring for my berth found, to my surprise and mortification, that it had been given to another passenger, and was told that the agent in London had acted without authority in selling me the ticket. I expressed my surprise and disappointment to the Captain, and inquired what I had better do in the matter. He suggested my accompanying him to the office of the agent, in Water-street, Liverpool, for the purpose of ascertaining what could be done. On stating the fact of my having purchased the ticket of the London agent, Mr. M'iver (the Liverpool agent) answered, that the London agent, in selling me the ticket, had acted without authority, and that I should not go on board the ship unless I agreed to take my meals alone, and not to mix with the saloon company, and give up the berth for which I had paid. Being without legal remedy, and anxious to return to the United States, I have felt it due to my own rights as a man, as well as to the honour and dignity of the British public, to lay these facts before them, well knowing that the British public will pronounce a just verdict on such proceedings. "I have travelled in this country nineteen months and have always enjoyed equal rights and privileges with other passengers, and it was not until I turned my face towards America, that I met with anything like proscription on account of my colour.

"Yours respectfully,

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS."

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, April 7th.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

THE WESLEYANS.

A trustworthy correspondent sends us the following important information :—Lord John Russell, some days since, sent to the Wesleyan Committee, to beg them to suspend their decision on the Educational Minutes, for he fully believed that the alterations which were preparing, would render the measure acceptable to them. The Committee have therefore sent circulars, conveying this information to the ministers of their body, and one of them is my informant. Of course, if Government can detach the Wesleyans from the general body of opponents they will be glad to do so, but the endeavour only serves to show us more completely what manner of man the Prime Minister is. If, however, unhappily for the country, the Ministerial move should succeed with the Wesleyans, that body, I have every reason to believe, will be thereby thrown into a state of confusion, which its leaders, if they be wise, will above all things avoid. Too many among them are sound at heart on the question for it to be safe for their Council of War to determine a retreat.

This piece of information explains the reason for the publication of a pamphlet, which has been issued by Murray, professing to give "An Explanation of the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education," and evidently issued by authority. The book is reviewed in the most prominent manner in the *Times* of Monday. It contains a specious statement of the advantages and bribes offered to schoolmasters, and the children of the poor, and holds out the prospect of such modifications of the Minutes as may meet the objections of many of the opponents of the scheme. Its object is evidently to mislead and deceive the public until the Parliamentary imprimatur is given to the scheme.

YOUNG MEN'S COMMITTEE.

A meeting of young men was held at the King's Head Tavern, Poultry, on Thursday, the 25th ult., for the purpose of forming a committee to oppose the government proposals with regard to education. The chair was occupied by Ebenezer Clarke, Esq., of Walthamstow. The following resolution was adopted as the basis of their proceedings :—

That this meeting is of opinion that the province of Government does not extend to the education of the people; and views with alarm the recent attempts of her Majesty's Ministers to connect with the State, and place under its control, the greater number of schools for the children of the industrious classes, as developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education for August and December, 1846.

An Executive Committee was appointed to arrange for public meetings, petitions, &c.; Mr. C. G. Harding was requested to act as secretary, and W. Tabor, Esq. (of Great Trinity-lane, City), as treasurer.—The first public meeting in connexion with the Committee was held at Devonshire-square Chapel, on Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., Mr. J. Howard Hinton in the chair. Resolutions were moved, seconded, and supported by Messrs. Waddington and Katterns (ministers) in very effective speeches—the former dealing with the principle, the latter with the operations of state education; E. Clarke, Esq.; Mr. C. G. Harding, and Mr. Washington Wilks, who vindicated the right of young men to move on this question, and exhorted them to exercise the right. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a petition, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman. In the course of the evening, Mr. Edwards moved his usual amendment, but with less than even his usual success, not finding a seconder.—The following evening a public meeting was held at Butterland-street Chapel, Hoxton, Mr. Rothery (the minister) in the chair. The meeting was addressed by H. Childs, Esq., Mr. Norton (minister), Mr. Elt, and others. The usual resolutions and petitions were carried unanimously.—A third public meeting was held on Friday evening, at Eagle-street Chapel, Mr. Overbury (the minister), in the chair. The audience was numerous, and the speeches were effective.—It is proposed by the committee to get up a "monster petition" from the young men of London, similar to that against the Factory Education Bill. The following is the

ADDRESS OF THE METROPOLITAN YOUNG MEN'S COMMITTEE FOR OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT PLAN OF EDUCATION

TO THE YOUNG MEN OF ENGLAND.

BRETHRENN.

Upon every question of public moment which involves the great principles of freedom and justice, the advancing interests of society, or the mental and moral prospects of the coming generation, we hold it to be the right and duty of young men emphatically to express their public verdict. With these sentiments we take upon ourselves to address you on a subject of the most vital importance to every heart that throbs with his country's love and to every hand that is employed in urging forward his country's weal. We are young men. Towards you our sympathies naturally turn. To you we make our appeal.

The proposals of Government, with regard to the education of the people are such as, if allowed to be carried out, will frustrate all that has been done of late years towards the complete overthrow of priestcraft and despotism, and will retard the moral and intellectual elevation of the community at large.

It is not now necessary to speak of the details of the measure before you, though there is sufficient in them to awaken suspicion, and arouse hostility. Its place of birth, and the mode of its introduction to the nation, cannot fail to remind you of the Star Chamber, and the tyranny of the Stuarts. But we trust that you have learned to look on Governments with both eyes open. The mirror of history has cast its beams on your minds, and shown that the object of Governments in essaying to protect the religion, the trade, or the education of the people has always been to establish such a centralization and consolidation of power as shall strengthen the machinery of despotism, and neutralize the influence, if not destroy the existence of free individual thought and action. Experience has shown, that they never interfere with mind but to pollute or degrade it; and if they are entrusted with the training of the mental energies of childhood, the springs of manly action will be therefor dried up, and a moral and intellectual thralldom will take the place of that physical despotism which is now fast crumbling away.

The great and admitted want of instruction, among vast numbers of the working-classes of this country, ought undoubtedly to engage our sympathies and exertions. But while we would exercise benevolence towards our fellow-creatures, we will not suffer our judgment to be led astray.

We call upon you, therefore, to unite with us in resisting the uncalculated attempt, on the part of her Majesty's Ministers, to place the schools of the people under the control of the State. No time is to be lost. Form yourselves into committees; call meetings; distribute information; petition Parliament; and, if need be, address the throne. By prompt and energetic action on your part the design of the enemy may be frustrated. Consider well the importance of your voice on this occasion. To you is turned the expectant gaze of the world. You must reform its abuses. You must infuse fresh energy into its civilization. You must take your part in the future concerns of this mighty empire. Therefore, look well at the responsibility of your position. See how much depends on you; how the future destiny of the world is in your hands, to make it the abode of justice and truth, of liberty and brotherhood, or of a moral despotism more hateful than physical bondage. You have the experience of bygone times to add to the zeal and enthusiasm of youth; therefore, speak temperately, but strongly.

Deeply impressed with the importance of the present crisis, again we say—Unite with us! We implore you, by your love to humanity and God, by your regard for truth and virtue, by your desire to fulfil the precept, Love your neighbour as yourself. As you value freedom of thought as well as freedom of body, we entreat you to come forwards now in vigorous opposition to this measure.

A CHALLENGE.—We have been requested to insert the following :—

To the Gentlemen comprising the Committee in opposition to the new Government Scheme of Education.

Gentlemen,—I am requested, on behalf of several working-men, (who are in this particular the representatives of their order,) to respectfully challenge any one or more of the gentlemen composing your Committee, or others that you may nominate, to fully and fairly discuss the merits of the Government Scheme of Education, they feeling confident that your opposition thereto would be of serious injury to the working-classes if successful, and as no fair opportunity has yet been afforded them in any of your meetings called for the purpose of opposing the same, they consider that, if you have any regard for their welfare, you will not refuse this challenge. Should you feel disposed to enter the lists, several commodious Halls in different parts of the metropolis have been offered at a trifling charge.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
H. S. EDWARDS.
10, Blackfriars-yard, Blackfriars-road, April 3.

IRELAND.

The certainty of the near approach of a searching poor-law, according to a letter from Loughrea, in the *Ballinasloe Star*, is beginning to be felt. The landlords of Kilreacle were to meet on the 5th of April, for the purpose of considering the best means of providing employment for their people, so as to render them independent of out-door relief.

CULTIVATION OF THE SOIL.—Writing on Thursday, the Dublin correspondent of the *Times* says that there is considerable improvement in the reports respecting the progress of spring work. Many of the landlords are bestirring themselves, and taking active measures to procure supplies of the necessary seeds for their tenants; and if the conduct of Lords Kilmaine and Ormonde [who have given copiously] be but generally imitated, much of the danger which now menaces the country, in the shape of a deficient harvest, will undoubtedly be averted.

FEVER still continues to increase to an alarming extent in Cork, Sligo, Mayo, and various other counties, and, indeed, the pestilence exists to a greater or less degree generally throughout the country. In the union workhouses, especially, the malady prevails, and the mortality in some places is very considerable. In some few counties—for instance, in Cork and Sligo—famine is still at work, but generally there appears to be a decrease of destitution.

THE IRISH RELIEF WORKS.—The following was the amount of expenditure on relief works for the week ending the 27th of March—viz., £210,506 10s. 4d. Notice has been given that in addition to the reduction of 20 per cent. of the labourers employed upon the public works, another reduction will shortly be made.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SPAIN.—The ministerial crisis has, at length, received a solution. The Sotomayor ministry, the tool of French influence, for some time refused to resign office, in spite of the declared wishes of Queen Isabella, but, at length, M. Roca de Togores, the Minister of Commerce, countersigned the decrees dismissing himself and colleagues from office. The Queen immediately sent for M. Pacheco, a leader of the moderate conservative party, to form a new administration. The personnel of the Ministry is as follows :—M. Pacheco, President of the Council, and Minister for Foreign Affairs; M. Salamanca, Minister of Finance; M. Benavides, of the Interior; General Mazarredo, of War; General Sotelo, of Marine; M. Pastor Diaz, of Public Instruction and Commerce; and M. Bahamonde, Minister of Justice. Three members of the new Cabinet—Messrs. Pacheco, Salamanca, and Pastor Diaz—belong to the fraction of the Parliamentary Opposition called Puritans; and Messrs. Mazarredo, Benavides, and Sotelo, to the Moderado fraction. M. Arrazola belongs to the latter party. M. Mazarredo is a friend to Narvaez. A motion to embarrass the new ministry made by M. Gonzalez Moron, in the Chamber of Deputies, was rejected by a majority of 134 to 56. The new government have commenced well. M. Olozaga is to be allowed to return to Spain. A general and unconditional amnesty, including all the Progressistas, is likely to be published. Narvaez will, it is thought, be offered the Paris embassy, and Repartero that of London. General Serrano had appeared before the officer charged with his prosecution, which it was believed would be dropped. These events, which are attributed to English influence at Madrid, have caused great disquietude at the Tuilleries.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN FRANCE.—The Royal Court of Amiens sat on the 25th ult., to hear an appeal brought by three members of the Evangelical Baptist Society, against a judgment of the tribunal of Laon, by which they were condemned to pay a fine for associating with others, more than twenty in number, for religious purposes, contrary to the 294 article of the penal code. The court decided that the sect of Baptists was beyond the pale of the religions authorised by law, and was, consequently, an illicit association. The judgment of the tribunal of Laon was then confirmed.

MORE MURDERS OF THE CHRISTIANS.—Mosul, March 17.—Advices received from this city are, in substance, that Bederkhan Bey had decapitated a bishop and a Jacobite priest, and had submitted several Christians to the most atrocious tortures. The Chaldeans were in hourly apprehension of a massacre. The Porte, however, expected to have 40,000 men in the field at Carpont, in the course of a few months, to rescue this miserable population from the horrors to which it is exposed.—*Daily News*.

ST. GREGORY'S, NORWICH.—A few weeks ago the churchwardens of this parish called a vestry for the making of a church-rate. Seven of the parishioners voted for it, thirty-two against it; in spite of which the churchwardens, Messrs. Tuck and Rackham, determined on making and collecting the rate. On Monday last (Easter-Monday) the churchwardens year of office expired, and Mr. Tuck, the parish warden, was proposed for re-election, Mr. Knight, an Anti-church-rate man, was proposed in opposition to him. After a severe contest the latter was elected. The numbers, at the close of the poll, were—for Mr. Tuck 79; for Mr. Knights 83. Thus have the parishioners put an extinguisher upon the unjust contrivance which the Church party were planning for exacting the maintenance of their church from those who dissent from it. Mr. Knights repudiates the rate so disgracefully made, and will leave the church (as far as he lawfully may) to the kind consideration of its friends.—*From a Correspondent*.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	1680	910	940			1170
Scotch						
Irish			640			
Foreign	1750	1670	3660			

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In the report of the *soirée* given to Frederick Douglass, in our last number, we were in error in stating that Mr. Joseph Sturge was present, as we find he was not even in London at the time the meeting was held.

"M. R." We see no valid objection, but, on the whole, we would not adopt a course calculated to mislead.

The letters of several other Correspondents are omitted, simply from want of room.

THE Publishing Office of the *Nonconformist* is now removed to 4, Horse Shoe-court, Ludgate-hill; where all Communications to the Editor and Publisher should in future be addressed. All remittances and post-office orders should be made payable to Charles Miall.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1847.

SUMMARY.

As the hour approaches for the decision of the question between the Whig Ministry and the Dissenters on the Educational Minutes, the conflict thickens—agitation widens in its extent and deepens in its tone—and all classes, whether friendly or inimical to the scheme, are evidently bracing up their determination for a final struggle. We have, as yet, met with no proof satisfactory to our minds that the government contemplates the withdrawal of their obnoxious measure. Lord John probably counts upon a greater accession to his strength from the Church, by persisting in the course he has marked out for himself, than loss from the offence which he will give to the Dissenters. But he exposes his Liberal parliamentary supporters to a most harassing cross fire. It is certain that if they take courage to oppose him, and to vote against the grant, in fear of the approaching general election, he will yet be able, with the aid of the Conservatives, to secure a majority. It seems probable—although, on this point, we should hesitate to pronounce a decided opinion—that a considerable number of Liberals will peril their seats, by giving their vote with their chosen leader. They are, consequently, at their wit's end, and have, we hear, arranged for a meeting to consult upon the course which it may be most expedient for them to adopt. It is just possible that they may prevail upon Lord John Russell to withdraw the Minutes for the present, and to wait until another general election has given him a firmer hold of power. It is possible—but, looking to the character of the man and to his position, we cannot say that in our judgment, it is likely. Doubtless the Minutes will be so modified as to soften down the most glaring features of injustice, and possibly to detach from the opposition the Wesleyans and the Free Church. But the scheme in substance, we strongly suspect, will be pushed through with vigour, and Dissenters left to bemoan that systematic neglect to diffuse their own principles which has invited, if it did not suggest, this insidious attack.

Meanwhile, however, there is no idleness amongst the friends of voluntary education, nor can they complain of want of success. Bristol has added its voice and vote in opposition to all government interference. Sheffield also has achieved a triumph, after full discussion, in the same cause. There have been meetings innumerable; provincial conferences are becoming common; and the Central Committee, in order to collect and concentrate in one focus the opinion and feeling which the promulgation of the Minutes has excited, and to let loose upon reluctant members of Parliament bands of earnest-hearted constituents, has summoned a general conference to be held at Crosby Hall, in London, and to commence its sittings on Tuesday, the 13th inst. We need not urge our own recommendation upon our friends to be present, or send their representatives if possible. The occasion is a critical one. The blow to be struck is in defence of valued institutions. The case admits of no delay. We must all act together, and with unusual vigour and promptitude.

Scotland, we rejoice to perceive, is on the move. Lectures explanatory of the nature and bearing of the Government scheme, are in course of delivery at several important places. At Glasgow and Edinburgh, Mr. Edward Baines, jun., by special request, has addressed public meetings—in the last-mentioned city, a very numerous and influential one. The conclusion of Dr. Alexander's eloquent speech, we deem sufficiently important to copy below, in the hope that the sound advice which it contains may be generally followed:—

Allow me to say, that it is all very well for you to get us ministers to make speeches, and for you to come around and cheer us on, and perhaps encourage us to say rather strong things now and then, but it will not do for you to go on, and when the hour of stern conflict comes, to shrink from the contest [hear, hear]. Now, I say this, that this question must be a testing question at the hustings [great cheering]. I thank you for that cheer; and I trust that it is a promise which you will most nobly and honourably redeem [renewed cheers]. I am not in the secrets of those who manage political affairs. I know nothing of what is

intended or proposed for the next election; but I know this, that an election is near at hand; and I most devoutly hope that in this city of Edinburgh some man may be found to stand forth worthy to represent a population of such a city, who will boldly avow that he goes into Parliament, if you send him thither, determined to resist all such measures as this, and also, I trust, avowing himself sound upon the great vital principle that all religion ought to be left for its support, for its advance and propagation, where the great Head of the Church himself left it—in the hearts, minds, and consciences, and to the energies of his own people, enlightened by His Word, and sustained and cherished by His own Spirit [applause]. I have little fear about this matter. I am not afraid of the convincing reasoning of Mr. Macaulay. I am not afraid of the vehement eloquence of Mr. Gibson-Craig [laughter]. I am not afraid even of the tactics and talents of the Parliament House. I think it is within the range of possibility that we may get over these. Forgive me if I say that I am more afraid of the petticoats [great laughter]. I am afraid of the ladies who come into shops, and say, "Mr. So and So, you vote for Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Gibson-Craig?" "Not quite sure, madam, I am rather thinking of voting for the Dissenting candidates." "Oh, very good; please send in your bill" [applause and laughter]. This is what I am afraid of. Now, I do not mean to insinuate that the Dissenters of Edinburgh in general will succumb to this most despicable influence; but I like to speak my mind openly; and I say that this is the only thing I fear; and I will further say, if you be men, and if you resist all this influence, and risk something for the great and good cause, I have no other fear. (The doctor sat down amid loud and prolonged applause.)

Amidst all the bustle consequent upon this temporary agitation, we are happy to report that the Anti-state-church movement exhibits no signs of diminished vitality. We have reason to believe that the state of its finances will exhibit, at the ensuing Triennial Conference, not merely its stability, but its rapid progress. The information we have received, leads us to anticipate the presence of a numerous and influential body of representatives at that appointed gathering. At Norwich, last week, a Conference of the friends of religious liberty—attended by almost all the Dissenting ministers in the county, and by a considerable number of lay gentlemen—was held, at which strong resolutions were passed; and, in the evening of the same day, a numerous tea-party was held in St. Andrew's Hall, at which gentlemen specially invited from London were present to address the meeting, and to witness the enthusiasm which had been created in reference to the Anti-state-church cause, among the Dissenters of Norfolk. The example, we trust, will be extensively followed.

The Revenue Table, which has just been published, exhibits on the year an aggregate increase of £2,387,806. This increase is to be found in every department except the Stamps and Crown Lands. On the Customs—owing possibly to large importations of corn previously to the abolition of the duty, and to the change effected last year in the sugar duties—the increase amounts to £1,132,000 upon the year, and nearly half a million upon the quarter. In the Excise there is a surplus of £661,572 above last year's return, and £26,407 upon the quarter. The Property-tax shows an increase of £379,840; the Post-office of £52,000, and the Miscellaneous of £129,273. The deficiency in the department of Stamps, owing, we imagine, to a diminution in railway enterprise, amounts to £32,693, and the Crown Lands present us with a falling off to the extent of £18,000. On the whole, taking into consideration the vast change recently made in our commercial policy, and the influence, upon our national finances, of Irish famine and English scarcity, the Revenue Tables just published must be regarded as tolerably satisfactory.

Elsewhere we have given as full a report of the effective meeting on Tuesday last, of the National Alliance, for securing a reform of the representation, as our limits will allow of. It was both well-attended and enthusiastic. Although there are few outward indications of a desire for further organic change, the conduct of the government and of Parliament, especially in proposing such unjust and insidious measures as the government education scheme, in sparing the landlords of Ireland at the cost of the English people, and in increasing our military and naval establishments in a time of profound peace, and of heavy expenditure, is silently adding converts to the doctrine that a legislature, composed almost exclusively of one class of the community, is, in the nature of things, unlikely to make equal laws for the whole people. This principle will be seasonably brought before the public by the motions of Mr. Duncombe, for repealing the rate-paying clauses, and of Mr. S. Crawford for repealing the Septennial Act, which are to be brought on for discussion soon after the Easter holidays. If no other result attend these propositions, we shall, at least, receive from the discussion more decided evidence of the Conservative leanings of the Whigs, and of their hostility to any further reform, or even modification, of the representative system. On the eve of a general election such a public exposure will not, we hope, be thrown away upon the borough constituencies of the empire.

THE HEALTH OF TOWN'S BILL.

JOURNALISTS are usually believed to have made up their minds upon every conceivable subject, and to have reached that happy eminence from which they can see at a glance the character and tendency of every project that is broached. Doubts, allowable, and even praise-worthy, in others, are deemed discreditable in them. They must pronounce judgment at once, and, in submission to the conventionalism of their craft, with an air of authority. It may expose

us, therefore, to a terrible suspicion of incompetency for our post, if we confess the plain truth, that we give but a timid and hesitating support to the principle of Lord Morpeth's bill for promoting the Health of Towns. We are not so certain that legislative interposition for securing sanitary results will prove, on the whole, and in the long run, beneficial, as to assure us that this is a province in which the *laissez-faire* principle must be abandoned without scruple. We have looked at the question on both sides—we have taken it into the light of those political axioms upon which we are always anxious to found our decisions—and we incline to the belief that *this* is within the legitimate sphere of the civil ruler, and that in seeking to save life by the removal of active and public causes of disease, he is but fulfilling obligations imposed upon him by the nature of his office.

Even in the comparatively narrow department of physical health, there is much evil to be apprehended from superseding, by legal enactments, the self-reliant habits of the people. Cleanliness and comfort are, like many other things, all the more valuable in moral respects, when they are the fruit of spontaneous growth. Providence has entailed appropriate penalties upon every violation of natural laws, and, assuredly, filth, over-crowding, and indolence, furnish no exception to the rule. Where the safety of others is not concerned, experience has demonstrated the wisdom of leaving individual transgression to the correction of its fore-ordained punishment. To rescue people from their own folly is no part of the business of Government, as we understand it. Drunkenness is a tremendous vice, the parent and nurse of most other vices—but we could not advocate the prevention of drunkenness by law. Society, it is true, suffers from its prevalence—but then, society has greatly, by its own usages, encouraged the evil, and must, by its own self-denial, apply the remedy. Men are not born into this world of probation to be looked after in every stage of life as little children, but to learn and practise the art of self-control. Disease and death are fearful evils—but to point out their superfluous ravages in any particular direction as the result of negligent habits, or even of ignorance, is not enough to convince us that the case warrants legislative intermeddling.

But every subject may claim from Government such provisions as are needful to the protection of life. The diseases generated by dirt and squalor communicate themselves to the cleanly and the careful. No man has a right to poison an atmosphere which others, as well as himself, are compelled to breathe daily. No man, no class of men, should be allowed to import pestilence at will amongst their neighbours, or to dwell in such a condition as to convert their hovels into so many sources of contagious malady. The power which justly forbids the erection of a powder-magazine in a densely-peopled district, is equally bound to forbid the erection of dwelling-houses for the poor on a plan and scale which will necessarily engender and nourish mortal fevers. The healthy and cleanly portion of the nation, may fairly enough look to the magistrate for protection against the invasions of disease originated by the griping avarice of landlords, the parsimony of rate-payers, or the careless and filthy habits of a section of the poor. In demanding Government interference, they demand protection from wrong—and whether their lives be threatened by the pistol of the assassin, or by the pollution, by the negligence of others, of the air they breathe we conclude that they are entitled to the protection they claim. We see clearly enough the difficulty of drawing a practical line of demarcation between what the Legislature ought to do, and what it ought to refrain from doing, in this matter; but we deem ourselves justified in coming to the conclusion that Lord Morpeth's bill embodies a sound principle.

The mode in which he proposes to carry out the principle is, of course, a totally different question. A Board of Health, consisting of three paid members, and two members of the Government—a *corps* of inspectors to make requisite inquiries and surveys, and to advise as to what works shall be undertaken—management of such works to be vested in municipal bodies where they exist, and in local bodies to be organized where they do not—power to extinguish all local boards now engaged in superintending sewerage, paving, and so forth, by an Order in Council—and provisions for the prevention of the nuisance of smoke, for the proper ventilation of houses, and for a supply of water co-extensive with the drainage to be effected—these constitute the prominent features of the measure—a measure which, as is fitting, does not, as did Lord Lincoln's bill, exclude London; and which, as is not fitting, does exclude from its provisions the removal of cemeteries from the immediate vicinity of populous towns.

In this embodiment of the sanitary principle, our readers will at once perceive, that the Board of Health is to perform the function of will, the *corps* of inspectors, of intelligence, and the municipal and local organizations, of action. The moving power—the authority which is to put the measure in force, is a central one. We started in alarm when this information first unfolded itself to us—and that nervous twitching which every new specimen of centralization is apt to excite, fairly shook us. But calm reflection has suggested to us that, in this instance, it may be resorted to with tolerable safety, and that it is connected with no very extensive patronage. A less despotic power would probably be unequal to the conflict which all may foresee with the habits of rate-payers, and the vested

interests of local commissioners, clerks, and subordinates. If the bill is to be operative, we believe it must needs be armed with this provision. There is no great danger of its becoming over popular. It has but little to give away—it will have much to order in opposition to existing snuggeries and prejudices. Ingenuity may possibly turn it into an instrument of political corruption—but, unquestionably, the mechanism itself has no inherent tendency that way.

We take the measure, then, as, on the whole, sound in principle, and cautiously framed in detail. We see in it another proof, if any were wanting, of the ease with which government can construct useful measures, when not overborne by the clamours of the Church. It is, we shrewdly suspect, to the selfish demands of the clergy, that we owe the omission from this bill of a clause for removing cemeteries. Clerical exclusiveness and clerical fees must still make the burial of the dead a nuisance to the living. But for them, a single clause might have settled the much-litigated question for ever.

A BRITISH BOW TO AN AMERICAN PREJUDICE.

CUNARD'S line of transatlantic steamers, is, we believe, essentially British. Private property they may be, but, for mail purposes, they are under the pay of government. The proprietors, consequently, have no right to outrage the feelings of Englishmen on board their vessels, by the adoption of the vilest of American prejudices—nor, if there be the virtue in our countrymen for which we give them credit, will they be permitted to do so with impunity. Ashore, an Englishman would scorn to sanction, even by tacit connivance, an American's antipathy to men of colour. Aboard a boat under English management, we should like to be informed why he must submit to a different rule. Are our ships to be governed by transatlantic notions? Do our countrymen, when they seek a passage in the New York liners, insist upon the exclusion of slaveholders from their company? They would have some colour of reason in so doing—but who would expect an American proprietor to indulge them? What! are we to catch the contagion of a loathsome example? and submit tamely, in deference to overweening presumption, to the obtrusion of an alien and detestable code of regulations on board our own passage boats?

On Tuesday evening se'nnight, as our readers would learn from our last number, a farewell tea-party was given, at the London Tavern, in honour of Frederick Douglass, the well known and much admired self-emancipated slave. The company was both numerous and highly respectable—representing all parties, creeds, and classes. The occasion, although a peculiar one, offered no exception to the cordial manner in which Frederick Douglass has been uniformly received throughout the country. Everywhere he has been warmly welcomed—everywhere treated with the respect due to his talents and his energy—nowhere reproached or avoided, on account of the colour of his skin.

Scarcely had his hand ceased to feel the grasp of English brotherhood bidding him farewell, and praying God-speed to his mission, when Frederick Douglass was destined, even before he had quitted our shores, to taste the bitterness of that hatred which is treasured up for him by his own countrymen. He had paid his passage-money by the *Cumbria*, and had been assured, on inquiry, that such payment would entitle him to all the advantages to which an Englishman, under similar circumstances, would have been entitled. Arrived at Liverpool, he proceeded to his ship, and was there informed that he could not be allowed to proceed on his voyage unless he consented to eat his meals alone. Necessity obliged him to submit—and thus, on board an English boat, a few American passengers, we suppose, are allowed to fling insult in the face of the whole British community.

If we allow this, the fault will be our own. If by protest, remonstrance, and, if need be, action, we do not convince the proprietors of Cunard's line of steamers, that Englishmen have blood in their veins as well as Americans, we shall be much to blame. Surely, if these gentlemen are open to conviction by no arguments but the pecuniary, there is spirit enough left among us to secure the repeal of this most offensive regulation.

We must resist this impudently-attempted transplantation to our own soil of practices which we abominate. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our coloured brethren, and we owe it to our principles, to brand with reprobation, loud and universal, the stooping of British commerce to such unutterable meanness. Whatever may be tolerated in America, we do hope that the manly feeling of this country will frown down any disposition to introduce prejudice against colour into English company, whether ashore or aboard.

"TAITS MAGAZINE" UPON THE EDUCATION MEASURE.

Tait's Magazine for the present month contains a long and well-written article, which, although advocating an impartial system of state education, strongly condemns the Government scheme, comparing it to an electric telegraph, through which statesman and churchman will play such notes as they please on the future mind of the country. On the objectionable manner in which the measure was introduced, and the powers assumed by the Committee of Council, the writer says:—

The Committee of Council on Education may consist of

very well-meaning persons, but they should not be employed or allowed to usurp legislative functions. The issue of their late deliberations might be unexceptionable in every respect but one, and that may be fatal; for, if Committees of this nature are permitted to turn their Minutes into enactments, it is difficult to say where the practice is to stop. The Ministry and this Committee seem to think that the House of Commons exists only to pass money grants; while they can do very well without the House of Peers. They are the most reckless innovators on the Constitution. They set aside, without the benefit of statute, the Crown and the Coronets; while, instead of leaving the Commons the virtue of their three readings, and all the discussions and amendments in Committee, they merely bid them pay and ask no questions. The extent, the character, and the design of these Minutes, give them more importance than is attached to the great majority of Parliamentary Bills. They will create a very large additional annual expenditure, calculated at different figures, from half a million to a million-and-a-half. They change the nature of public patronage, and convey a great portion of it, in trust, to the clergy and managers of schools. They create a number of new and paid officials amongst the boys of the country, on a scale of costly extravagance. They propose to found, or to extend, a system of instruction which is to cover the land and uproot ignorance from every parish. The details of a measure so great and comprehensive should be submitted to Parliament in the usual manner. The public should not even be drawn into the reception of a benefit by an "artful dodge." If its framers believe that their plan is good, they need not fear discussion; and they have acted unwisely in introducing it to the world in a robe of suspicious circumstances.

He comments in the following strain upon the "startling extent of the patronage" which this scheme would create:—

The Minutes of the Committee found a system of apprenticeship to the trade among the young, that is liable to the most miserable jobbing and perversion imaginable. . . . The Members of the Committee of Council are not sufficiently obtuse to suppose, that all the apprentice-schoolmasters and mistresses could find employment at their trade; and, therefore, they wisely propose to provide for the worst hands opportunities of obtaining employment in the public service. The public are to have the benefit of the dullest and lowest class of apprentices. A very limited acquaintance with the ways of the world will be sufficient to convince any man of the almost inevitable and disgraceful jobbing that their measure would cause in every country parish. . . . The young officials fall into a vested right for public support. So long as they keep well with the Church, their bread is baked and buttered too. Of course, they must be careful to obey this one provision—they must not keep a conscience. When the incumbent of the parish is evangelical, they must oppose all Romeward tendencies, and warn youth against the snares and schism of Puseyism; while in the substitution of a gentleman of the ultra-montane school—so to speak—they must become exceedingly formal, pay rigid attention to festivals, and learn the senior writing-class to date letters, when they write by the penny post, as they do at St. Judith's, not so much in accordance with secular almanacs, as the calendar—an injunction that will be strictly observed on St. Valentine's eve. Where the bishop or archbishop and the incumbent hold diverse views, monitors, apprentices, teachers, and inspectors, will be obliged to step cautiously; but in this world there is no such thing as perfection in happiness; and even with this disadvantage, the teaching class will be tolerably fortunate, if they can only contrive not to have a conscience; that is indispensable.

In short, this department of the scheme is characterized as "an agency of the most terrible kind for establishing conformity, servility, and hypocrisy, in profitable places."

MOVEMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

MEETING AT THE LONDON TAVERN.

A public meeting was held at the London Tavern, yesterday week, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament against the scheme of education contained in the Minutes of Council of August and December, 1846. Owing to some mismanagement in the preparatory arrangements of the meeting, in not having the placards announcing it distributed till that morning, and to the circumstance of a meeting of the Society of Friends, on another subject, in the city, being held at the same hour, the meeting, in the early part of it, was not numerously attended; but about the middle and towards the close of the proceedings, the large room became somewhat better filled with a respectable and attentive auditory, among whom were several ladies. Among the gentlemen were G. W. Alexander, Esq., the Chairman; Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham; J. M. Hare, Esq.; Nathaniel Griffin, Esq.; William Rutt, Esq.; Mr. Charles Stovel; Mr. J. H. Hinton; Mr. John Burnet; Mr. Daniel Katterns; and Dr. Cox. J. S. Trelawney, Esq., M.P., was also present, but did not sit on the platform.

The chairman (a member of the Society of Friends, and a leading member of the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society) denied the statement of the *Times*, that there was an extremely small number of public schools, and he believed there had been much exaggeration as regards the deplorable state of the education given in those schools generally. The principal object of the "immense scheme" was most assuredly to support what are called National Schools, but what, he thought, would be more properly designated Church of England Schools,—schools not for the education of the people of England, but schools for the education of the people of England in Church of England principles [hear, hear]. Those National Schools, so called, were not properly such; they were exclusively Church of England Schools, and which would throw the apple of discord among the friends of liberal schools, but many of whom will most strenuously oppose it [applause].

Mr. Charles Stovel, Baptist minister, in moving the first resolution, contended that the principle of the scheme was bad, the manner of introduction was an injury, and that it could not be carried out without inflicting a wrong upon the country. The resolution, which declared the measure "alien to the spirit and principles of the British constitution," was seconded by Mr. N. Griffin, and carried with two dissentients.

Mr. JOSEPH STURGE moved a second resolution, objecting to the measure as tending to enervate the system of voluntary contribution and local efforts, as

mixing up the State with religion, and as leading to a violation of the rights of conscience. He deplored that the British and Foreign School Society had shackled their freedom by the acceptance of the trumpery aid of £750, and he would willingly give £100 out of his own pocket to help to restore that money again; but he thought it had been an act of inadvertence on their part. His friend, the Chairman, had said, the British and Foreign School Society were not compromised on the present measure; he was happy to hear it; he believed that they had taken the assistance under the greatest possible guards, but he did think they had committed a most serious mistake in accepting it at all [laughter, and hear]. As long as they had an Established Church, no sect could safely take money from the Government, even for the building and materials of their schools, without making a sacrifice of the voluntary principle.

Mr. JOHN BURNET, Independent minister, in seconding the motion, frankly avowed his inability to hold any longer by the notion, that education is a matter in which the State may or ought to concern itself. He looked upon the proposal of this measure as one of many proofs that we are rapidly imitating those forms of corrupt administration whereby in France the operation of constitutional government has been completely neutralized.

A resolution was also passed, that all schemes for the promotion of education by the Government, hitherto propounded, contained elements in their operation incompatible with the welfare of the community. An amendment was proposed to this motion, but the unfortunate mover (a young man having the appearance of a mechanic) could not even find a seconder. A resolution having been carried, to petition Parliament in opposition to the measure, the meeting separated.

SOUTH LONDON AUXILIARY SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

The annual meeting of this auxiliary was held on Wednesday night, at the Borough-road chapel, Southwark. Joseph Maitland, Esq. occupied the chair. A resolution was submitted relative to the Government education scheme, upon which an amendment was moved, expressing a favourable opinion of the measure, and requesting her Majesty's Government to persevere with it. This amendment found, on being put, only three supporters. The following resolution was then carried:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the plan developed in the Minutes of Council, relative to general education, is open to many and grave objections, and will, if persevered in, prove highly detrimental to Sunday-schools; it ought therefore to receive the determined opposition of Sunday-school teachers."

INTENTIONS OF THE WESLEYANS.—The adjourned meeting of the Wesleyan United Committees of Privileges and Education, was held on Wednesday last in London. In consequence, however, of a general feeling among the delegates against any public announcement of the nature of the discussion or the decision arrived at, before the official documents themselves are published, we are unable to do more than repeat our full persuasion that the resolutions and the course by which it is proposed they shall be carried into effect, will prove satisfactory to opponents generally of the Government scheme, and to the members of the Wesleyan connexion in particular. In all parts of the country the latter are extremely solicitous that the entire body should be arrayed as one man by its petitions and memorials on the side of civil and religious freedom. The signal from the United Committees is to be given "on the earliest day practicable."—*Leeds Mercury*.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

(From our Correspondent.)

Since writing my last report, Mr. Edward Baines has visited our neighbourhood, and addressed public meetings in Newcastle and Sunderland. On Good Friday, at evening, the lecture-room, Nelson-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, capable of holding between two and three thousand people, was crowded by a highly influential audience. Amongst the ministers present were Messrs. Sample, Baptist; Christopherson, Baptist; Pengilly, Baptist; Rogers, Independent; W. Griffith, Wesleyan; Bell, Independent; and Banks, Baptist. Upon the motion of H. Angus, Esq., Mr. James Pringle, Scotch Succession Minister, and the father of dissent in the town, was called to the chair. I am indebted to the *Newcastle Guardian*, for the following outline of the speeches:—

The CHAIRMAN having introduced the proceedings in an appropriate speech,

Mr. SAMPLE moved a resolution welcoming Mr. Baines. The reverend gentleman remarked, in the course of a brief speech, that, however much they were bound to oppose the measure, they must ascend to higher ground and contend for the complete separation of Church and State.

Mr. ROGERS seconded the resolution. He regretted it was the very men who were indebted to the Dissenters for their elevation to office, that they were now called on to oppose; and passed a high eulogium on the character of Mr. Baines.

Mr. GRIFFITHS (Wesleyan), sympathized with the sentiments uttered by Mr. Sample, that there should be no State Church. He hoped this would be the cry from the Land's-end to John-o'-Groat's. The Wesleyan conference was converted into a nonconformist body by Sir James Graham's bill, and he earnestly hoped this measure would be the means of converting the Wesleyans into out-and-out Dissenters. He hoped to see Mr. Baines in the House of Commons, face to face with Lord John Russell—not to Lord Lansdowne, for they could not afford such stuff in the upper House. He supported the resolution from the bottom of his heart.

Mr. BAINES, on rising, was received with enthusiastic applause. He addressed the meeting at great length in explanation of the various features of the Government measure, but as his speech is the same in substance as those delivered at previous meetings it is unnecessary to extract it. Throughout his able address, he was repeatedly and enthusiastically applauded.

Mr. BELL moved a resolution, thanking Mr. Baines for his address, and expressing the determination of the meeting to oppose the Government scheme most

perseveringly. It seemed to him that it was not the people that needed to be educated so much as the Government, who required to be taught that they should not meddle with what did not belong to them.

Mr. BANKS seconded the resolution, and on its being put to the meeting,

Mr. GEORGE SHEPPARD (editor of the *Newcastle Courant*, and *Newcastle Advertiser*) rose to propose an amendment. He denied that the duty of Government was merely negative—it was, in his view, positive; and proceeded to review Mr. Baines's statements, which he did with considerable ability, and was repeatedly applauded by a section of the meeting. He concluded by moving an amendment, approving of Government education, and the present measure.

Mr. MACKELVIN seconded the amendment.

Mr. BAINES replied by stating that, having made his statements, he would not further infringe on the time of the meeting, but was perfectly willing to leave the question in their hands.

The motion and amendment were then put, and the former carried by a decided though not large majority. The *Gateshead Observer*, an opponent of the Dissenters, says the motion was carried by a considerable majority.

The meeting occupied four hours; the audience listening with profound attention during the period. The whig papers here must give up palming upon their readers the delusive statement that the opponents of the scheme were composed of a fraction of the Dissenters. At the time the meeting was being held, there were two popular preachers (one from London) occupying Methodist pulpits in the town; and within a short distance of the meeting was a highly attractive tectotal service for the working classes, yet, in spite of all these, the splendid hall was filled—and filled with the dissenting votes of the town.

Mr. Ord, the whig member for the borough of Newcastle, is taking due pains to soften the scheme down to the affections of his dissenting constituents; and persuade them that it is not so obnoxious as they imagine.

They are playing him with letters, memorials, protests, and petitions. The member for South Shields, Mr. Wawn, is open to conviction; a deputation from the united committee of dissenting churches will wait upon him this week.

Mr. Baines would visit Sunderland on Saturday. The Hanover-square Unitarian Church, Newcastle, would meet on Sunday, to take the scheme into consideration. Public meetings have been held in Darlington and Morpeth. Lectures have been delivered in Sunderland and South Shields, protesting against the measure. Petitions will be sent from all these places.

The whig papers are changing their cue; up to this time they have condescended to sneer at the dissenting movement. Now they are filled with long articles trying to explain the Minutes of Council; beseeching and imploring the Dissenters to give up their opposition.

SHEFFIELD.—TRIUMPH OF THE OPPONENTS OF STATE EDUCATION.

On Wednesday a great public meeting was held at the Town-hall, Sheffield, the Mayor in the chair, to consider the Government education measure. Shortly after the commencement of the proceedings, the meeting was adjourned to Paradise-square, where several thousand persons assembled. Mr. Alderman Dunn, after a long address, proposed a motion approving of the Government project, which was seconded by Alderman Vickers, and supported by Mr. Isaac Ironside. Mr. Edward Smith then came forward to propose an amendment. He defended the party with whom he acted in this matter, from the aspersions that they were not the friends of education, and argued that all that they required was, that it should be of the right sort. He took many objections to the Government measure, defended the statistics of Mr. Baines with regard to the achievements of voluntarism, and reviewing the past, pointed with hope to the future. He concluded by moving an amendment repudiating the Government measure for interfering with education. Mr. Thomas Smith, minister, seconded the amendment. Mr. Robert Leader, jun., in a long and able speech, replied to the arguments advanced by other speakers in support of the Government scheme. He was repeatedly applauded during his remarks. Mr. R. S. Bayley, Independent minister, Principal of the People's College, addressed the meeting at some length, in favour of State education:—"I am persuaded," he said, "that if my voice be anything in the matter, you will do wisely to vote in favour of the Government interference [loud cries of 'No, no']. But pass another resolution which I have prepared, to urge upon the Government the removal of everything that is objectionable [no, no]. There is another point which you ought, in common honesty, to look at prior to your decision. I am not prepared for the alternative of refusing the Government aid [disapprobation, and cries of 'hear, hear,' from behind the speaker]. You may be, sir, The rich Dissenters in towns may be, but remember, Dissenters in the country are in a very different position [cries of 'No, no']. But in common decency, I think, my friends, the Dissenters, are bound to suggest some plan, if they take away this from you [hear, hear]. If Government is offering you a boon, which I maintain is offered—such a boon as England's Government never offered before—then, if the Dissenters propose to deprive you of it, I think they are bound to suggest some other. The motion was put to the vote about a quarter past six o'clock, and the amendment was carried by a MAJORITY OF TWO TO ONE, amidst loud cheering. At the time of the division there were between 4,000 and 5,000 present. A petition was then adopted, founded upon the amendment, and, after a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his services in the chair, the meeting separated at half past six o'clock. The meeting, it is to be borne in mind, was convened by the supporters of the measure.

"The second town in the West Riding," says the *Sheffield Independent*, "has spoken out on this great question. Leeds led the way by spontaneous impulse. Sheffield has answered to a challenge. The friends of State education thought, most mistakenly, that they might render aid to the Government by trying the question over again in Sheffield. If Sheffield could

have been set off against Leeds, Lord Morpeth might have been encouraged and the Government beguiled into the belief that the sentiment of Leeds was merely the opinion of a few influential Dissenters there. Therefore they called on Sheffield to speak, and the town has spoken, in a way they by no means expected." In the meeting, the result was clear and decisive. It had been anticipated some time before the meeting came to a close, and a bold effort was made to get another chance by adjourning to a future day. The judgment of the movers of the resolution and amendment was so clearly against this course, and was so well supported by the meeting, that the effort was abortive. When the show of hands took place, the orderly state of the meeting and the decisive majority made it quite clear, that both the majority and minority knew exactly what they were about. There was no call to put it again—no hint of mistake. The Mayor performed his part to perfection, and the verdict of Sheffield was pronounced with unmistakable distinctness—*For free education; against State pay and Church control.* We trust this decision will receive due respect in high places. Members of the Government and gentlemen in Parliament have been cherishing several great fallacies. They have supposed that the objectors to this measure were the minority, trying by force of words to dictate to the majority. They find now that the objections come from the majorities of the great communities.

BRISTOL—ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR FREE EDUCATION.

A public meeting of Protestant Dissenters was held on Monday evening week, at the large room in Broadmead, in this city, to take the Government education measure into consideration. The building was densely crowded, containing within its walls not less than from 1,500 to 2,000. The proceedings were of a spirited character, the meeting being protracted to a late hour, and attended with a good deal of opposition, but the opponents of State education came off victorious. George Thomas, Esq., presided. The first resolution protesting against the Government scheme *in toto*, was moved by Mr. George Wood, minister, and seconded by Robert Charlton, Esq. An amendment, *not in favour* of the Government scheme, but in the shape of a memorial to the Queen, praying that it may be withdrawn, in order that a measure of combined secular education, apart from religious instruction (for which other facilities would be given), may be substituted. This amendment which was moved by Mr. George Armstrong, Unitarian minister, and seconded by C. J. Thomas, Esq., was lost by a considerable majority. Robert Norris, Esq., then moved that the following clause be embodied in the first resolution:—"That this meeting is decidedly of opinion that it is not the province of the civil Government to interfere with, or to provide for, the instruction of the people in any way." A former speaker, said Mr. Morris, had called the House of Commons the people's house; it was no such thing, and he would call therefore on that large meeting, not to commit the education of their children and their children's children to an influence which would inevitably be exerted to bring them up in the principles of a slavish subserviency, and render them fit instruments for the purposes of tyranny and oppression [cheers]. Mr. J. P. Ham, minister of Lodge-street chapel, seconded the amendment. He rejoiced to witness the large attendance of working-men, because it was principally upon their account that this opposition to the obnoxious measure was organised. It was for the sake of preserving their freedom, and he hoped they would not permit Government to tamper with it. The amendment was carried by a large majority. Mr. John Jack, minister, W. D. Wills, Esq., John Shoard, Esq., and Mr. Langdon shared in the subsequent proceedings. An amendment opposite to the propositions which had been carried was moved by R. Leonard, Esq., but the chairman refused to put it as being out of order, and travelling over all the ground again.

The meeting, it will be observed, says the *Bristol Mercury*, a supporter of state education, was special and exceptional. It was not a meeting of the general public. However, we have no desire to undervalue the demonstration. It must stand for what it is worth. It was a numerous and respectable meeting, and the majority against all Government interference was marked and decisive.

RIVAL MEETINGS AT WAKEFIELD.—At Wakefield, on Monday, the supporters of the Government plan, fearing to meet their fellow-townsmen once more in open conference, if unsided by the powerful arguments of drunken navigators, had a quiet assemblage of their own, to which the admission was by ticket. The Court-house, on this occasion, was never more than half-filled, and in consequence of the very long and tedious orations of one or two reverend speakers, the meeting did not separate until nearly eleven o'clock at night. A petition in favour of the Government scheme was moved, and carried. The opponents of the Government plan, nothing dispirited by the disreputable conclusion of the last week's public meeting, forwarded a requisition, signed by 212 merchants and tradesmen, to the constables, requesting them to call a second meeting; the constables refused. The requisitors, with the consent of the magistrates, called a meeting on Tuesday evening last, at the Court-house. At the time appointed, the court-house was crowded to excess, and J. Holdsworth, Esq., one of the magistrates, was present to prevent a breach of the peace. During the evening an attempt was made by the opposite party to break up the meeting as on a former occasion; but the promptitude and decision of the worthy magistrate smothered the riot in embryo. G. W. Harrison, Esq., was called the chair, and the meeting was addressed by the chairman, Mr. T. Spencely (Wesleyan), Dr. Munro and Mr. Lamb (Independents), Mr. William Harrison (Baptist), Messrs. J. J. Horner, J. Horner, jun., &c. One point was handled effectively, the discredit of the former riot was affixed clearly and convincingly on the State educationists. All the resolutions were carried nearly unanimously, and it was

decided that "a petition be presented to each House of Parliament, praying that the education scheme of the Committee of Privy Council may be ejected." The opponents of State education, says the *Leeds Times*, have gained at last the victory over their rivals.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION MEASURE AND CONSTITUENCIES.—A numerous meeting of the Liberal electors held last Thursday, at the Rotunda of the Coloured Cloth-hall, in Leeds, resolved unanimously that memorials should be presented to Lord Morpeth, as member for the West Riding, and to Mr. Aldam, as member for this borough. Forms of memorial were read and passed by acclamation, and they will be immediately engrossed. A remarkable proof of the feeling entertained in the less populous districts is contained in the fact that in one village near Huddersfield, where there are seventeen electors who signed the requisition to Lord Morpeth to become a candidate for the West Riding, every man of the seventeen has this week signed a Memorial to his lordship, imploring his decided and persevering opposition to all further grants for educational purposes.—*Leeds Mercury*.

DR. HUTTON, late minister of Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, and a gentleman whose sound judgment and liberal principles are universally acknowledged, has addressed a letter to the *Inquirer*, in which he objects to the needless amount of government patronage which Lord Lansdowne's measure creates. He questions whether the securities for the impartiality of the inspection under all governments, Tory as well as Whig, are sufficient. "There should," he says, "have been less of centralisation in the plan, and more should have been left to the local managers of the schools." "And even," he continues, "if there were no objections on any of these grounds, I, as a Nonconformist, could give no direct sanction to any measure, which (however liberal the spirit may be in which it is proposed, and I give the government entire credit for the very best intentions) directly recognises the Establishment principle, and provides the constant clerical inquisition into the orthodoxy of the teachers in the 'National' or Church Schools; requiring even of pupil teachers, mere boys, what may fairly be regarded as a subscription to articles."

THE LEEDS DEPUTATION.—The deputation from the meeting of the borough of Leeds, consisting of George Goodman, Esq., the Mayor, Edward Baines, Esq., F. Carbutt, Esq., John Wilkinson, Esq., and Peter Fairbairn, Esq., appointed to wait upon her Majesty's Ministers, and to represent to them the triumphant decision of that great assembly against the Government plan of education, made their report to the requisitors on Wednesday last, at the Rotunda of the Coloured Cloth-hall. Without entering into particulars, we may state generally that the report stated, that in the discussion of the subject with the Prime Minister, in the presence of Lord Morpeth and Mr. Aldam, his Lordship stated that the cost of the Government grant would not, when the scheme was in full operation, amount to £1,700,000 a year, as was apprehended; but he did not enter into any calculation to invalidate that estimate. The Report further stated, that Lord John Russell, in the course of the interview, made two important admissions which he authorized the deputation to publish if they thought proper: the first, that he thought that any larger scheme of national education involving a considerable public expenditure should rest upon the authority of an act of Parliament, and not upon a grant of money by a vote of one branch of the legislature; and, secondly, that he was himself adverse to teaching of catechisms and liturgies in schools supported at the public cost; but while his Lordship made these admissions, he did not hold out any expectation that the proposed plan of education, emanating from the Committee of Council, or the mode of its introduction to Parliament, would either be abandoned or modified in consistency with these objections. The deputation also reported the result of their interviews with several members of Parliament sitting on different sides of the House, and holding different views on politics, some of whom were against the Government scheme, both in principle and detail, but a much larger number were in its favour; and concluded their report by a declaration of their firm persuasion that nothing but a firm, decided, and immediate effort of the different Liberal constituents in all the various counties and boroughs of the kingdom, by memorials describing the inevitable consequence of breaking up their political party, and of alienating the attachment of their constituents, could avert the evil with which the country was menaced by their uncalled-for and suicidal measure. A cordial vote of thanks was given by the meeting to the deputation for their valuable services, and resolutions were entered into for carrying out the suggestions on the widest scale, and with the greatest promptitude.—*Leeds Mercury*.

ROCHDALE.—On Wednesday night, a public meeting was held in the Borough Hall, at this place, which was comfortably filled, to oppose the Government scheme of education, when Henry Kelsall, Esq., magistrate, was called on to preside. Mr. Hewitt, minister, was called upon to move the first resolution, which was condemnatory of this proselyting system of education. [This, with the other advertisements, will be found in our advertising columns.] He showed the effect it would have upon the schools of Dissenters, and the influence it would throw into the hands of the clergy. He pointed out the subserviency it would engender amongst the poorer part of the community, and the discontent and bad feeling it would create in any neighbourhood where the Dissenters and Church people might be equally divided as to numbers. It, in such a place, he significantly added, there should be a busy meddling vicar, who was haughty and imperious, and more ready to create than heal the differences amongst his parishioners, what disturbances and heart-burnings would this mischievous scheme of education give birth to. Mr. William Fenton, son of Mr. John Fenton, late Member for Rochdale, gave his hearty support to every legal means that could be adopted to prevent this educational plan being carried into effect. The next speaker was Mr. Robert Schofield, who, in a forcible manner, pointed out the jobbing amongst the public charities that had been carried on by the clergy. Lord Brougham had taken a good deal of time in point-

ing out the misapplication of funds left for the purposes of education, and he thought that the Government should see that these funds, amounting to half-a-million of money per annum, were properly applied before they took a similar sum out of the pockets of the people for jobbing purposes. The speaker said he was educated at a grammar-school at Halifax, which was endowed with £300 a year for the education of the poor, who never received any of its benefits, but it was enjoyed by the rich only. All the scholars paid highly for their education, and the master had his endowment in addition to his usual wages. Let Government, he said, apply these funds to their legitimate uses before they tax the people for more. Messrs. Thorburn and Burchell, ministers, and Messrs. Jacob Bright and Grubb, spoke at considerable length. All the resolutions were passed unanimously, and a petition to the House of Commons, praying that body not to grant money for such a one-sided plan of education, was adopted. Mr. Sharman Crawford, the member for the borough, was appointed to present it. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting broke up a few minutes after eleven o'clock.

SOUTH STAFFORD.—A special meeting of the ministers and messengers of the Baptist churches in the mining district of Staffordshire, summoned to deliberate on the Government scheme of education, assembled in the Baptist chapel, Princes-end, Tipton, on Tuesday, March 23rd. Mr. Stent was called to the chair, and, after speeches on the subject from different brethren, it was unanimously resolved—"The the petition then read by the Chairman, condemning the Minutes of Council, not only in detail but in principle, be adopted. A resolution, decidedly disapproving the measure, and expressive of strong determination to oppose it by every legitimate means, was then carried unanimously. A further resolution, embodying similar sentiments, and calling upon the churches to give prompt and decided expression to their disapproval of the measure, was also carried without a dissentient. The first resolution will be sent to Lord John Russell and the county members, and the second to all the Baptist churches in the district.

TIPTON.—On Wednesday evening, March 31st, a public meeting in reference to the Government scheme of Education, was held in the Baptist chapel, Tipton. After a lecture delivered by Mr. Stent, minister of the place, explanatory of the character and tendency of the Minutes of Council, a petition was adopted condemning the Minutes in detail, and expressing decided opposition to State education in any form and under any guise. The Sunday-school teachers connected with the chapel have adopted a similar petition.

DEVONPORT.—A meeting of several hundred Sabbath-school teachers has been held at Morice-square (Baptist) chapel, and resolutions passed, and a petition adopted, condemnatory of the Government scheme, with only one dissentient. Subsequently, a meeting of persons opposed to the Government scheme was held at Princess-street (Independent) chapel, resolutions were passed, and a petition adopted of a similar order to the former—three dissentients present. The interest felt was not what could be wished; the people do not understand it yet; and in order to give the necessary information, and to awaken a spirit of inquiry, it is intended to have three public lectures at the Town Hall, and to invite discussion, after which a public meeting will be held, in order to offer the most determined opposition to the insidious measure. In addition to the above, the committee appointed to watch over the interests of Dissenters in this neighbourhood have determined to obtain signatures of electors to a declaration of intention to withdraw support from the present representatives if they persist in lending their assistance to the carrying this measure into a law. It is hoped, and not without good ground, that many names will be appended to the above.—*From a Correspondent.*

DARTFORD, KENT.—On Good Friday a public meeting was held in Lowfield-street Chapel, to oppose the Government measure of education. At half-past six o'clock Mr. J. Robins, of Dartford, was called to the chair, and, after an appropriate introductory speech, called on Mr. Woodyard, minister, from the Central Committee, London, who exposed the fallacies of the system. He was succeeded by Mr. Rottary; and Mr. H. Smith, minister of the place, who next addressed the meeting, urged strong objections against it; and Mr. J. A. Meen, of the Sunday-school Union, earnestly called upon all classes of persons favourable to civil and religious liberty to join in opposing the education scheme of Lord Lansdowne. Resolutions were passed condemnatory of the measure, and petitions to both Houses of Parliament are in course of signature.

SUDBURY.—A public meeting was held in Trinity chapel, here, on Thursday, the 1st of April; John Chaplin, Esq., of Lexden, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, by William Macnab, minister of the place, by T. W. Davids, of Colchester, Samuel Higgs (Baptist), Mr. Harris (Baptist) and other gentlemen. Mr. Davids, in a long, interesting, and eloquent speech, ably exposed the objectionable scheme of the Government, and resolutions were passed, and a petition to Parliament unanimously adopted—deprecating all interference on the part of the Government with the education of the people, and praying that the Committee of Council on education might be dissolved. On Sabbath, the 4th inst, petitions of a similar kind were adopted and signed by the teachers of Trinity chapel Sabbath-school, and also by the members of this congregation.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER may expect shortly to receive a Memorial signed by so large and so powerful a section of the electors of Halifax, as probably to convince him of the expediency of dropping the Minutes of Council.

THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION.—We are happy to learn that the Annual Committee of this body have resolved to oppose the Government Scheme of Education, in every constitutional way. Letters to this effect have been received by the various superintendents and preachers of the Connexion throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland.

WALES.

EDUCATION IN PEMBROKESHIRE.

(From the *Pembroke Herald*.)

The Pembrokeshire Educational Committee met at the Calvinistic Methodist chapel, Narberth, on the 29th and 30th of March. There were present a considerable number of ministers and gentlemen from various parts of the county, who manifested an unusual degree of interest and anxiety for the cause of free education, owing, undoubtedly, to the Marquis of Lansdowne's educational measure. The reports received and presented to the meeting were of the most cheering nature—it having been previously ascertained that one in eleven of the population were receiving daily instruction; that nearly £5,000 had been subscribed since August, 1846, to be paid in the course of five years; and that arrangements are in progress for opening twenty-five additional schools, affording accommodation for 2,300 children. The committee was inspired with fresh courage and zeal, and arrangements were made for calling the district committees together, and an earnest determination appeared to possess them that they would not cease their efforts until the whole county, from one end to the other, would be provided with liberal and unsectarian day-schools. It was also resolved that an appeal be made to the public in behalf of the Pembrokeshire education movement. Several members of the committee expressed their disapprobation of the conduct of the Cambrian Educational Society, and bitter complaints were made of the obstructions that that society and its agent had made to the progress of education in the county.

THE AFTERNOON CONFERENCE.—It being understood that the discussion of the Government scheme would take place, the greatest interest was shown, and it was evident that the committee were greatly alarmed about it. Mr. D. Evans read several letters from gentlemen regretting their inability to attend; among whom were the Revs. David Davies, Haverfordwest; T. Mortimer, Solva; D. Jones, Middle Mill; and Thomas Lloyd, Esq., Cardigan; all of whom expressed themselves decidedly opposed to the measure, and urged the most prompt and determined resistance to it. After some conversation and examination of the Minutes of the Committee of Council, a series of resolutions were passed, all of which were unanimously adopted, with the exception of the second; when a discussion of nearly two hours took place. The second resolution was as follows:—"That this meeting expresses its conviction that all Government interference with the education of the people is at variance with sound legislation, and a departure from the legitimate province of the Government." The Rev. D. Anthony, and the Rev. B. Thomas, and J. Jones, of Narberth, thought that a system of secular education might be adopted to suit the country. The meeting was strongly in favour of the resolution; no amendment was moved, and the resolution was passed, *nem. con.* The Revs. Josephus Williams, Pembroke Dock; Edward Davies, Haverfordwest; Daniel Davies, Zion's Hill, denounced the scheme, in no measured terms, as a most dangerous attack on the civil and religious liberties of this country. All confidence in the Whigs was entirely gone, and a resolute determination was made to withhold all support from any candidate who would vote for this measure in the House of Commons. The meeting then adjourned to Tuesday morning.

This morning was chiefly spent in arranging for the future labours of the committee, and the best method of obtaining suitable masters, and encouraging promising young men to undertake the work; in connexion with which, a very animated discussion took place in reference to the Brecon Normal School. Some were disposed to support that Institution, without having a pledge from its committee that no Government aid be sought, but the general feeling ran strong in the other direction. Many objected to afford any aid without an express understanding that it is to stand or fall on the voluntary principle, upon which the Rev. Josephus Williams, of Pembroke Dock, moved, and the Rev. Simon Evans, Pen-y-groes, seconded, the following resolution:—"That this meeting engages, cordially and liberally, to support the Brecon Normal School, on the expressed condition that no Government aid be sought or accepted," which was carried. A subscription was then entered into, when upwards of £20 were promised on the spot, and to be continued annually. It is evident that the Nonconformists of Pembrokeshire have a thorough understanding of their principles; are prepared to abide by them; and are determined to provide the means of daily instruction for their people, and that on the voluntary principle alone.

A public meeting was held at the Baptist chapel, Narberth, on Monday evening, the 29th March, to consider the Minutes of the Committee of Council, and to petition against its adoption by the Legislature. The Rev. Josephus Williams, of Pembroke Dock, took the chair. Strong and decided resolutions against the education scheme were adopted, after various addresses. Mr. B. R. Thomas was the only objector. He had perfect confidence in her Majesty's ministers, and considered their plan a fair and liberal one. He had tried the efficacy of the voluntary principle to promote education, which had completely failed. He, therefore, said, that we were left to the choice of the adoption of the Minutes of Council, or no education. Mr. Thomas would not, however, move an amendment.

PONTYPOOL.—A numerous and highly-respectable meeting, in opposition to the Government scheme of education, was held on last Tuesday evening, at the Tabernacle, Pontypool, Charles Conway, Esq., of Pontnewydd, in the chair. After a powerful and eloquent address from the chairman, Mr. G. Thomas, Classical Tutor of the Pontypool Academy, moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr. S. Price, of Abersychan. Mr. T. Thomas, Theological Tutor, moved the second resolution, seconded by Mr. D. D. Evans, of Pontryddynn. The other gentlemen who took part in the meeting were W. W. Phillips, Esq., Pontypool; W. Conway James, Esq., Pontnewydd; Mr. Williams, of Pontypool; Mr. Smith, Teacher of the Pontypool British-school; Mr. H. Daniel, and Mr. Lewis. Though the meeting continued till near eleven o'clock the peo-

ple listened with unflagging attention, and departed highly delighted. This meeting was followed up by another on the following evening, at Abersychan, which was held in the English Baptist Chapel. Mr. S. Price, minister of the place, took the chair. The two tutors, and Mr. Evans, with their usual eloquence, addressed the meeting; and also two Independent ministers—Mr. Rowlands and Mr. James. On the following evening another very large meeting was held at the Independent Chapel, Blainavon, when Isaac Hiley, Esq., of the Varteg, took the chair, and resolutions were ably moved and seconded by Messrs. T. Thomas, of Pontypool; Price, of Abersychan; Rowlands, of Ebenezer; and Mr. Griffiths, minister of the chapel. And on Friday evening a similar meeting was again held in the Independent Chapel at the Varteg, when Mr. Hiley again took the chair, and Messrs. Price, of Abersychan; Kenym, of Pysgah; Jones, of Siloh; and Mr. Rowlands, moved and seconded resolutions against the measure. In all these meetings there was a strong feeling against all Government interference with the education of the people. The people evidently see through the scheme: they are, whilst I am writing, preparing their petitions to get them signed as soon as possible. I merely send you this hasty account to let you know that the Welsh are alive to the subject.—P.S. In all of these meetings speeches were delivered in Welsh and in English, though the greater part in English. Mr. Evans, minister of the chapel, and Mr. Edwards, of Trosnant, took part also in the Pontypool meeting.—*From a Correspondent.*

ABERYSTWYTH.—A public meeting was held on Friday, the 2nd instant, at the Tabernacle, (the Calvinistic Methodist chapel), in the above town, to take into consideration the propriety of opposing the Government scheme of education, Mr. Edward Jones, minister of the place presiding. Several excellent addresses were delivered by ministers and laymen belonging to the different bodies of Nonconformists in the town, all condemning the interference of the Government with the education of the young, and opposing all grants of public money for such a purpose. A resolution was unanimously adopted of holding a series of public meetings in the chapels of the different bodies of Dissenters in the town and neighbourhood to enlighten the people and adopt petitions to Parliament to oppose the measure. At the conclusion a petition against the scheme, was unanimously adopted, and to be entrusted to Mr. Pryse, the member for the borough, for presentation, with a request that he would support its prayer.

LLANELLY, BRECONSHIRE.—Numerous meetings have been held here against the education Minutes. Mr. John Davies, Independent minister, has addressed several in speeches full of striking illustrations, real earnestness, and correct principles. He has obtained the zealous co-operation of Mr. Davies, Baptist minister, the Welsh Methodists and Dissenters in general. We understand that some Churchmen in the place regard the Minutes as very unfair and uncalled-for. Resolutions against the scheme have been passed and forwarded to Lord John Russell, and petitions to the House of Commons are in course of signature. To crown the whole, the right-minded Dissenters of Llanelly have determined to erect two school-rooms immediately. Their example ought to be, and will be imitated by others, so that it will be out of the power of any Government to interfere with the education of the people much longer.

RUMNEY.—The agitation against the scheme progresses hopefully in this locality. Meetings are held weekly as stated in our last.

TREDEGAR.—The movement gains strength and intensity in this town every week. The only drawback is, that the leaders of the largest congregation in the place are not very decided in their opposition, and seem to pay more attention to the *Daily News*, than to Dr. Cox and Howard Hinton. The congregation of Mr. Evan Jones have made arrangements whereby the town petition will be brought under the notice of all the inhabitants at their own homes, and in this they will be aided by the other Independent congregations.

CARDIGANSHIRE.—The Independents in Cardiganshire have nobly taken the lead in the opposition movement. Early last month the ministers met and passed a series of decided resolutions against the whole scheme.

THE WELSH METHODISTS.—MORE COMFORT TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—The Welsh Methodists have decided at their quarterly association, held last week, to meet the educational Minutes with the most energetic and indefatigable opposition. A petition will be sent from every chapel in the connexion, and as their chapels amount to 759, Lord John may smile at the idea of receiving so many compliments in the shape of petitions, between this time and the 19th of April. We have not learned on what grounds the Welsh Methodists oppose the scheme, but as the circular of the Central Committee is largely circulated among them we presume that they agree with its contents.

THE WELSH PERIODICALS.—All the periodicals which we have yet seen concur in opposing the scheme, though with various degrees of intelligence and energy. Several of the Welsh editors do not seem to have paid unremitting attention to the subject, and have not furnished a complete exposure of the scheme. That has been best done by the "Amseratt," and in a letter from Mr. Evan Jones, Tredegar, to the *Welsh Congregational Magazine*, for March. Notwithstanding all difficulties we have strong hopes that Wales will do its duty.

MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

MEETING AT EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Though the Scottish Dissenters have not taken the field against the Government scheme so early as their brethren in England, they have now fairly started on a course of agitation. A committee in Edinburgh, consisting of the most influential adherents of the different dissenting bodies, have led the way, and their first effort has been attended by the most gratifying success. Having requested Mr. Baines to lend them his aid, a

public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the Music Hall on Wednesday last. The chair was occupied by William Duncan, Esq., one of the magistrates of the city. The platform was crowded with ministers and laymen of all denominations of Evangelical dissenters, some of the number being from neighbouring towns and from more distant parts of the country,—such as Dr. Young, of Perth, and Dr. Adam Thomson, of Coldstream. The Hall, which is seated for 2000 persons, was filled to overflowing, people standing in the passage from the door up to the platform. After effective speeches from the chairman, and the Rev. Messrs. Thomson (Seceder), and Campbell (Independent), Mr. Baines was introduced to the meeting, and was received with the most enthusiastic applause. He delivered a most powerful and convincing speech of great length, thoroughly exposing the unconstitutional and insidious character, and the dangerous tendency of the Government measure. Mr. Baines made some severe but just remarks on the conduct of the *Scotsman* newspaper, in reference to this matter. This paper has hitherto been regarded as the principal organ of dissenting opinions in Scotland; but its devotion to the Whig interest and its frequent disregard of the sentiments of its chief supporters, have at length broken up the connexion. A striking proof of this was afforded at this meeting. When Mr. Baines intimated his intention of taking the *Scotsman* to task repeated rounds of applause burst from the assembly. The Editor has attempted an explanation in his number for Saturday last, but has completely failed in making a satisfactory defence. It is understood that a thoroughly dissenting paper is to be started soon. Dr. W. L. Alexander next addressed the meeting in a speech at once witty and eloquent, which working on the convictions just produced by Mr. Baines, powerfully excited the meeting.

After a few remarks by Dr. Young, of Perth, and several other gentlemen, the meeting broke up, having lasted with almost complete unanimity for nearly five hours.

A petition to the House of Commons is now in course of being signed, and there is every prospect of numerous signatures. A course of lectures, likewise, by some leading ministers is to be delivered during the present and next week.

MR. BAINES AT GLASGOW.—On Thursday night, a meeting was held in the Trades' Hall, for the purpose of hearing the sentiments of Mr. Baines, of Leeds, upon the Government Scheme of Education. The hall was filled. W. P. Paton, Esq., was called to the chair. On the platform we observed the Rev. Drs. Wardlaw, Kidston, King, Robson, M'Farlane, Taylor, &c. Samuel Higginbotham, Esq., R. Bartholomew, Esq., and various other ministers and laymen belonging principally, or entirely, to the various Dissenting congregations in the city. Dr. Kidston opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Paton having delivered a short address, introduced Mr. Baines, who addressed the meeting in a speech of two hours' duration, in which he denounced the Government Scheme in the most energetic terms, and was frequently interrupted by the applause of the audience. A vote of thanks for his address was unanimously agreed to.—*Glasgow Times*.

MR. VINCENT AT CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—On Monday and Tuesday last, Mr. Vincent gave two addresses to very large and enthusiastic audiences in this Gathercolian town, on the education question, and on the principles of peace. The first meeting was held in the Independent chapel which was crowded to excess including the vestry and aisles. The pastor of the church occupied the chair. Mr. Vincent denounced all Government interference with the education of the people; and insisted that the people had the power to educate themselves and to lift themselves into the possession of their political rights. He instanced the popular and democratic tendencies of the age, and made a vigorous appeal to the people to resist the Government scheme. His sentiments were greeted with the loudest applause. Such was the excitement produced that the Wesleyan chapel (a much larger one) had to be procured for the second meeting, and by seven o'clock it was crammed in every part. Mr. Vincent has received invitations from the farmers of the neighbouring towns and villages to visit them at the first favourable opportunity to address them on education, religious freedom, and universal suffrage. A spirit of enquiry is abroad in the Fens. In the city of Ely a few souls are in motion, and a movement may soon be heard of in that quarter.

A FEW QUESTIONS BY A WORKING-MAN.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—It is one of the stable convictions of my mind, that Nonconformists are the staunchest, the most intelligent friends of civil and religious liberty.

They have not taken principles from the philosopher, or priest, or statesman, but from a higher, purer source. Nor can they give a stronger proof of their attachment to liberty, than that afforded by their strenuous exertions to deliver the working-class from State and priestcraft at the present time; may they ever preserve, unblemished, their honourable reputation!

Sir, did my education qualify me for the task, I should respectfully solicit the favour of putting, through the medium of the *Nonconformist*, the following questions to the advocates of Government education?—

Where is the necessity for the children of working-men being educated, either by charity or Government?

Why should not the man expending, for the education of his son, fifty of sixty shillings per annum, enjoy equal liberty, in the choice of an instructor, as one who expends as many pounds per year for a similar purpose?

The working-man exercises, and rightly, his liberty in choosing from whom he will purchase food and clothing for his children; then why not equally free to choose from what class of characters he will purchase education for them?

Why should *working-men* be obliged to submit the education of their children to crouching and cringing, servile agents of any Government more than other classes of the community?

And, why should schoolmasters be reduced to the

degraded position of such creatures? why not be a free and fair competition between them as also between gentlemen of other honourable professions? why not let them trust to their skill and character for success, rather than to patronage? But it may be said, that "working-men cannot choose their children's instructors, because they cannot pay the expense, but that Government can do so."

And where, pray, does the Government obtain the money to pay with? Do they not *extort* it from the working-man? What right have any Government to impose taxes to an extent to enable *them* to give money for education? May they not, with equal justice, levy taxes to pay for all labour done, and in return, demand the services of all labourers?

Where would be the freedom and independence of the working-classes then?

If just and equal laws were enacted by the British legislature, and as justly and equitably administered by magistrates and others, would not the six days' labour of the sober and industrious man command ample funds to defray all the expenses of his family, education included?

Sir, when the above questions are answered by the Government supporters of education, a few others will be submitted by, Sir, your much obliged, and obedient servant,

London, March 26.

A WORKING-MAN.

REPEAL OF THE RATE-PAYING CLAUSES.—A General Committee has been constituted to get up another Metropolitan Meeting, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on Wednesday evening, April the 14th next, as well as a General Movement throughout the United Kingdom, in support of the following motion, which the honourable member for Finsbury (T. S. Dunscombe) has determined to submit to the "House" immediately after Easter:—"That whereas an Act passed in the reign of his Majesty King William the Fourth, intitled, 'An Act to amend the Representation of the People in England and Wales,' has failed to fulfil the just expectations of the people, and is not and cannot be final, it is expedient to amend the same, by the repeal of the rate-paying clauses, and by the insertion of provisions calculated to prevent any undue influences in counties and boroughs subversive of the full, free, and fair representation of the people in Parliament."

ACCIDENT AT WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE, STAMFORD.—On Friday afternoon, directly the "intrepid female," or "lion-queen," made her appearance in the den, the lion sprang at her and bit her face, but not severely. She screamed loudly, and the scene which ensued is difficult to describe. The arena was nearly full of respectable persons of both sexes. The keepers did all they possibly could to beat off the infuriated beast, but were some time in accomplishing their object. The lion, the keeper, and the woman, were all down and struggling together on the bottom of the den, and again the animal seized the woman, and bit her at the lower part of her back. To make the occurrence appear more dreadful, the whole of the beasts and birds assisted in the uproar. Ultimately the keeper rescued the daring woman, and the assistance of a surgeon was immediately called in. She was induced in the evening again to enter the den. Nothing, however, occurred this time to injure her.—*Lynn Advertiser*. [What is to be thought of people who so recklessly expose their lives?]

REPORTED LOSS OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM-SHIP TWEED, AND SIXTY LIVES.—Extract from the *Journal du Havre* of April 3:—"By the Baltimore we learn the loss of the Royal Mail steamer Tweed, which plies to the West Indies. The news of the disaster was brought to New Orleans on the 1st of March by the schooner Atrévida, Captain Sanchez, who left Campeche on the 19th of February. The details published on this subject in the American journals are very melancholy. By a letter received by a mercantile house at New Orleans the shipwreck has been known, and it is announced that sixty persons have lost their lives."

THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.—The accounts generally are more cheerful than they have been for several months. A better demand is experienced, not only in the home trade, but also for some of the largest export markets. The American orders, including those for goods which have been excluded from that market owing to the high tariff, are considerable; and, without expecting any very extravagant business, those who are largest and most intimately connected with the market anticipate a good, and even a large trade. There are symptoms of a revival of the trade to the east of Europe and the Levant; and there appears some probability that Odessa, which is a free port, will become a considerable market for British manufactures.—*Chronicle*.

THE CHESTERFIELD MURDER.—At the Derby Assizes, last week, John Platts, a young man of twenty, was tried for the murder of George Collis, in December 1845. The circumstances of the case were mentioned on the discovery of the remains of the victim. The facts proved in evidence were briefly these. Platts and Collis were in partnership as butchers at Chesterfield; Platts was indebted to the other; on the night of the 7th of December, 1845, a scuffle, blows, and groans, were heard in the butcher's shop; and when some neighbours inquired what was the matter, Platts said he had been ill; but he would not admit any one, and blood was afterwards observed on his hands: from that night Collis was missing. In August last year, some human remains were found in a cesspool at Chesterfield; the body had been cut up: the articles of dress attached to the fragments had belonged to Collis. The skull had been fractured. Collis's watch was traced to the prisoner. He was found guilty, and sentenced to death. It is said that the convict, since his condemnation, has confessed, in conversation with the Visiting Magistrates, that he is guilty. Two other men were suspected of having been engaged in the crime: one of them died before the discovery of the body; it is reported that Platts has divulged the name of the third.

The *Edinburgh Evening Post* stigmatizes the Whig administration of church patronage in Scotland, because it is very seldom that regard is paid to the wishes of the parishioners.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

We have received several letters from schoolmasters, on the subject of the education scheme, and subjoin the most important extracts from each. "One of the Craft," after expressing delight at the letter which appeared in our last week's number, from "A Schoolmaster," says:—"I am aware that the majority of the National schoolmasters are too much in bondage already to join in such a movement, but still I think that all those who have any regard for the best interests of the rising race, or for their own character as men of principle, ought to take this opportunity—which will probably never occur again—of showing the Government that they have another object in view, dearer to them than the acquisition of sordid gold, and that they consider this attempt to bribe them to forsake their principles, as a gross insult. The Government shield themselves by saying, 'We court inspection—we want monitors and pupil-teachers.' Let us show them that we want neither the one nor the other from them, since they cannot give them without trampling upon the conscientious convictions, rights, and liberties of our fellow-subjects; and, that whatever may have been our past conduct, we are now determined, by all the means in our power, to discountenance the principle, that the Government have any right to educate the people. May I be allowed to express a hope, that you, Sir, would have the kindness to recommend some plan that would afford the schoolmasters of the country an opportunity of expressing their disapprobation to the measure? Suppose the Central Committee to forward a protest against the plan, to every master in the country, drawn up in such a manner as to allow him an opportunity of choosing the ground on which he objects, by numbering the different clauses, or signing each separately; or, do you think it would be advisable for us to wash our hands of the unclean thing altogether, by returning the reports of the different inspectors lately received to the Council on Education? or their value, per post-office order, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer?"

"A British Teacher" at Bristol writes in this wise:—"I read with pleasure the letter of 'A Schoolmaster' in your last number, and although the pecuniary advantages offered to teachers by the proposed scheme are numerous, and, considering their present limited incomes, tempting, I am happy to inform you, and the readers of the *Nonconformist*, that many of my fellow-teachers with myself heartily agree with him in the determination not to receive Government aid as teachers. I would just add, that at a meeting of 'The Association of British Teachers in Bristol, Bath, and their vicinities,' held in this city on the 13th instant, the following resolution was passed—for it 10, against it 7: 'That in the opinion of this meeting, the support or interference by Government in the education of the people, being unjust, is deserving the opposition of all the friends of liberty and voluntary education.'

WORCESTER.—The committee and friends of the British-school, Clapgate, in this city, at a special meeting held on Friday, at the Friends' Meeting-house, E. Evans, Esq., in the chair, adopted a petition to the House of Commons, denouncing the Government measure of education, as being wholly unconstitutional, fraught with evil consequences to the interests of public liberty, and injurious to the freedom of education as at present sustained by voluntary efforts. The petition is to be forwarded by the chairman to Sir Denis Le Marchant for presentation. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, protesting against the Government scheme of Education, and against all Government interference with the education of the people, were last week forwarded from the Baptist congregation, Silver-street, in this city. They were entrusted to Sir Denis Le Marchant, M.P. for this city, and to Earl Ducie, for presentation.—*Worcester Chronicle*.

THE WHIGS, DISSENTERS, AND ELECTIONS.—Believing you are perfectly correct (writes "A Country Dissenter") when you say, "Dissenters will be heeded only when they begin to act, and that a few votes tell more forcibly than a hundred petitions," let me entreat you to employ your forcible pen in persuading Dissenters, one and all, to pledge themselves not to vote for any candidate (let his former character be what it may) who is, at the coming on of the question before Parliament, found amongst the supporters of the Minutes of Council. Our principles as Voluntaries are again assailed. Are these principles worth contending for, or are they not? If we consider that they are not, why are we not found in the ranks of the Establishment? but if we believe them worthy of being maintained, shall we be weak enough to keep them in abeyance for the sake of any friend whom we may wish to serve? But, Sir, I do hope that the Whigs and Dissenters are separated for ever. They, with a pretended zeal for the interests we have stood up for, have proved themselves the deadliest foes to real liberty, both civil and religious. Centralization is their aim; and they want to bring everything and every conscience under the control of the State. Union chaplains and schoolmasters (who must be of the Established Church) are of their creating. I am fully persuaded they have done more towards the enslaving of Englishmen—yes, a thousandfold more, than any other party in the State would ever have attempted to do. I certainly cannot think that Dissenters will again be heedless of the sword of Joab, when he inquires of them at the canvass, "Art thou in health, my brother?" If they be, they will share, and justly too, the fate of Amasa.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.—Delegates have been elected at the old Meeting-house, and by the Norfolk and Norwich Religious Liberty Society. Other congregations in city and county will speedily follow. There will be a very large attendance from Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire. The feeling in this district is much more intense than it ever was, even on the Anti-corn-law question.

THE ISLAND OF LABUAN has been formally ceded for ever to England, by the Sultan of Borneo, and was taken possession of, with due ceremony, on the 24th of December.

GLEANINGS.

A recruit at Glasgow, a few days since, was rejected, on being discovered to be a female!

INTemperance is a great architect—it builds gaols, hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and hulks.

THE JEWISH PASSOVER.—Thursday was the first day of the Jewish Passover, for, according to their chronology, the year of Creation 5607.

A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION has been formed at Bombay.

COPPER MINES have been discovered in the island of Maseera, on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea.

MR. ROBERT JAMES MACKINTOSH, son of the late Sir James Mackintosh, whose memoirs he has written, has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the island of St. Christopher.

PRESERVED MEATS.—A vessel arrived in the river Thames a few days since, from Constantinople, with 20 casks of preserved tongues, and 2 cases and 35,000 canisters of preserved meats. A few days previously nearly as large a quantity was imported from the same quarter into Southampton.

ICE, says the *New York Sun*, is a great article of export in Boston, and many thousand tons have this winter been cut, housed, and stacked.

THE EARTH.—The earth—speaking roundly—is 8000 miles in diameter; the atmosphere is calculated to be 50 miles in altitude; the loftiest mountain peak is estimated at 5 miles above the level of the sea, for this height has never been visited by man; the deepest mine that he has formed is 1650 feet.—*Chambers's Journal*.

The *Birmingham Journal* reports a case in which a stationer subjected himself to transportation for fourteen years, had the law been carried into effect, for exposing for sale fictitious bank-notes, payable at the Bank of Love, of Folly, and the like.

Stealing a negro from a slaveholder is a high crime, and punished with death; murdering a negro by a slaveholder is a venial offence, and the perpetrator escapes with impunity!—*New York Anti-Slavery Standard*.

My lord, the railway king, according to the *Sunderland Herald*, is an enemy to the liberty of the press. When not panegyrised by any given paper, he promulgates the decree—"Withdraw from this date all my advertisements!"

An Orleans journal states that M. Methivier, Curé of Bellegarde, after having sold his library, and given the proceeds to the poor, has just disposed of his little stock of plate and two watches for the same object.

MR. LUKE HANSARD, whose benevolent efforts to ameliorate the condition of his fellow-creatures are unbounded, has commenced the issue of a new journal, called "The Spirit of the Times," upon a very comprehensive plan; the grand object of which is the progressive improvement of the people of Britain in every respect, physical, educational, mental, moral, and truly Christian.

There are at this moment in London three pretenders, who respectively aspire to the thrones of the different countries under whose leaders these chiefs served. We have the Count de Montemolin, aspiring to the crown of Spain; Don Miguel, aspiring to that of Portugal; and Prince Louis Napoleon, entertaining faint hopes, it is true, of yet wearing a revolutionary diadem in France.

The two Church organs, the *John Bull* and the *Church and State Gazette* revile each other handsomely. "When the *John Bull*," says its antagonist, "professes to deal in truth, we shall expect Day and Martin to announce that the liquid article in which they deal is milk." A journal which did not profess to deal in truth would be a curiosity.

NOT OF THE CIVIL LIST.—We now come to "expenses defrayed by officers of the household, not being part of the Civil List." Queer things under this head. What do you think of one thousand guineas for robes, collars, and badges for the knights of the several orders? Surely, surely, if these gewgaws are worth anything they are worth being paid for by those who pine, and pant, and shuffle, and intrigue for them! What do you think of nearly £200 for repairing the crown, cushion, and cover? Why, what is the civil list for if the very crown of the Queen is not to be kept decent for two days in the year out of it? What do you think of £150 for chains and badges for the Marshal and Master of the Ceremonies? Is not that defrayed out of the Civil list, you ask? No, nor £113 for watermen's badges and attendance of barge-master of the House of Lords; nor £385 for the trumpeters and kettle drum-beaters of the household troops; nor £1,800 for the state clothing of the trumpeters of the two regiments of Life-guards? And yet we are told that the civil list is the prodigious thing it is that the Crown may maintain its domestic comfort with tolerable liberality and becoming éclat.—*Correspondent of the Liverpool Albion*.

THE EAST WIND.—Take an easterly wind, differing in no appreciable particular from its neighbours, and what a nuisance it is! All creation feels it as it sweeps like a pestilence along. Flowers droop and lose their brightness, and leaves shrivel, when it touches them. Let it glide ever so gently over the surface of a lake, and the cold-blooded fish avoids the shallows, and sinks into the depths of his native element, as though death floated on the water. In vain the angler tries his every artifice—the fish have lost their appetite, activity, and merriment—they will hide until the enemy shall have passed. All animals have a horror of it; even a donkey is delicate enough to turn his back upon it; cows, horses, sheep, and even pigs, give it their posterior to ply against. Man abhors it as he would a demon. Who ever heard of anybody being happy in an easterly wind? We should like to know whether any disciple of Momo ever fairly laughed in its face. We don't believe that the old founder of fun himself could have done such a thing. It broods like a nightmare upon one's spirits. Ask the hypochondriac how he feels under its fostering influence. It is in vain to ply your remedies against gout and rheumatism in an easterly wind. Patients respond to it like barometers. Does anybody know what an easterly wind headache is? We do; and, moreover it admits of no cure. It may descend to go away, *sui sponte*, when the wind changes, but croton oil of the very strongest could not carry it off till then. Ask the old lady with the corns what she thinks of an easterly wind; depend upon it, she will soon tell you where the shoe pinches. Ask the same question of the young lady with the taper waist; and, if she tells the truth—which, if you are a man of the world, you will wonder at—she will delicately hint at a pain in her side. Don't venture the same interrogatory to an old maid turned forty, unless you are her medical attendant. Such a query in such a quarter should be considered as strictly professional.—*Medical Times*.

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE IN AMERICA.—Next to the slavery question, the temperance cause is the most interesting, and is attracting more public attention, and more of the efforts of philanthropists, than any other subject. The movement is well calculated to exercise a most beneficial influence on manufactures and trade. It has already made quiet and rapid progress in the United States, and every year is increasing the number and respectability of its disciples. Members of Congress, members of state legislatures, judges, ministers of religion, and other persons of eminence, are joining its ranks, and it is becoming fashionable at the evening entertainments of some of the richest and most intelligent of our citizens to dispense with the use of wines and strong drinks. We have quite a variety of temperance societies, some of which combine benefits in case of sickness and death with total abstinence. There are Sons of Temperance, Daughters of Temperance, Temples of Honour, Washingtonians, and a host of others; and last, though not least, the coloured people are coming to the rescue, and are forming societies with the agreeable appellation of Brothers of the Fountain. One of the leading physicians of this city and of the professors of the Jefferson Medical College has come out openly in favour of the cause, and last week had a brilliant evening party of 250 individuals, at which neither wine nor any alcoholic liquors were used. It is estimated, that not fewer than 800,000 persons in the United States have joined and belong to temperance societies, and a great number besides abstain from intoxicating drinks who do not belong to any society. Out of this immense army of water-drinkers there are probably 100,000 persons who, previous to their reformation, did not obtain a suit of new clothes once in three years, and whose families were equally ill-clad, but who now get one or two suits a year, hats, shoes, stockings, and shirts, in a like proportion, and whose wives and children have likewise experienced the same advantages and improvement in their comforts and appearances. It is not an unfair calculation to say that 4,000,000 dollars a-year are now spent in clothing which formerly went into the pockets of distillers, brewers, tavern keepers, and conductors of dram-shops; and it is to be hoped the amount will be doubled, trebled, or quadrupled, before many more years have passed away. In this point of view alone it deserves the adhesion and support of every good man and woman; but, if we add the diminution of crime, the blessings of health and moral elevation, it presents an almost overwhelming importance to society, whether in Europe, Asia, or America.—*Correspondent of the Economist*.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting of this body on Monday, which was miserably attended, Mr. John O'Connell repeated the overtures to "Young Ireland" which he enunciated on the last Monday for a reconciliation. To effect that object, he would not hesitate to resort to any alternative, even to his retirement from the association, if he were personally considered offensive. At the conclusion of the proceedings the rent for the week was announced to be £24.

LORD CHARLES JAMES FOX RUSSELL, (the only candidate,) has been elected for Bedfordshire, in the room of the late Mr. Astell. At the nomination, Mr. W. White, of Bedford, read the noble lord a severe lecture on the conduct of the Whig party in their treatment of Dis-senters, and especially in connexion with the new Government scheme of education.

The *Constitutionnel* says, "the dysentery rages among the crews of the French vessels stationed at the Antilles and at Tahiti. The first-named station has lost more than forty men, and the other more than fourteen."

BIRTH.

April 5, at Calthorpe-terrace, Banbury, Oxon, the wife of RICHARD HENRY ROLLS, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

March 26, at Leicester, by the father of the bride, THOMAS YATRE LEE, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at-law, to MARY JOANNA, second daughter of Mr. CHARLES BERRY, Unitarian minister, of Leicester.

March 29, at the Independent Chapel, Oswestry, by Mr. J. Davies, minister, WILLIAM DAVIES to HARRIET NICHOLAS, both of Whittington, Salop.

March 30, at the Baptist Chapel, Earls Colne, Essex, by Mr. T. D. Reynolds, minister, Mr. EDWARD CRISP, of Felmarsh, to Mrs. JOANNA RICHARDS, of Earls Colne.

March 31, by license, at the Independent Chapel, Oundle, by Mr. G. Amos, minister, Mr. ROBERT GODFREY, of Greetham, Rutland, to Miss MARY JELLEY, third daughter of Mr. T. JELLEY, King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire.

April 2, at George-street Chapel, Oxford, by Mr. G. W. Brown, minister, of Summertown, Mr. RICHARD PHARAON to Miss IRONS, both of Summertown, Oxford.

April 2, at the Congregational Chapel, Little Hadham, Herts, by Mr. J. Lockyer, father of the bride, Mr. J. ROUS, of Takely, to Miss EMMA LOCKYER, of Much Hadham.

April 3, at the Common-close Chapel, Warminster, by Mr. G. J. Tubbs, minister, Mr. JOHN VIDLER TOONE, of Bold-street, Liverpool, to ELORA MARY, only daughter of Mr. HUGH CARSON, of Earls-street, Warminster.

April 5, at the Congregational Chapel, Maidenhead, by Mr. J. J. Freeman, one of the Secretaries of the London Missionary Society, Mr. THOMAS DAVIES, minister of the chapel, to SARAH, eldest daughter of the late Mr. J. P. PEARCE, both of Maidenhead. On the evening before the marriage, Mrs. Davies was presented by Mr. Charles Cooper, one of the deacons, with a purse of sixty guineas, as a token of affectionate esteem from some of his people. This was in addition to valuable presents from various other members of the Church and congregation.

DEATHS.

Oct. 24, at Melbourne, Port Phillip, Australia, EDWARD, eldest son of Isaac SEWELL, Esq., of Stamford-hill, and Throgmorton-street.

Feb. 22, aged 63, Mr. J. G. GREENWAY, twenty-three years pastor of the General Baptist church, Netherton, Worcestershire.

March 30, aged 47, MARY ANN, the beloved wife of Mr. A. JONES, minister of Buckland Chapel, Portsea.

March 30, at Halstead, Essex, after a protracted illness, in the 47th year of his age, Mr. JOHN SHERRING, deacon of the Church as-sembling in the Old Independent Chapel, Halstead.

April 2, at Halstead, Essex, of rapid consumption, in the 18th year of his age, MARK, the beloved son of the above Mr. JOHN SHERRING.

April 3, aged 15 months, EDWARD, son of Mr. George MIAL, Independent minister, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire.

April 4, at 1, Coburg-place, Kennington, aged 6 months, ELIZABETH, only daughter of Mr. James MIRAMS, of Esher-street, min-ister.

March 24, at Bishops' Stortford, after a few days illness, JOSEPH, the beloved son of Mr. HUNT, a deacon of the Baptist church, Bishops' Stortford, in his 17th year, much lamented by a large circle of friends.

March 25, at Great Missenden, Bucks, CHARLES BARTON, jun., in the 29th year of his age. His was a life of devotedness in the noble cause, his path that of willing obedience to the Saviour, and at its end, through faith in Him, was "perfect peace."

March 27, MARY, the beloved wife of Mr. Thomas COLLIER, of Sharnbrook, in the 78th year of her age.

March 29, at Pollington, near South, Miss SHILLITO, aged 35, a member of the Congregational church in that village. She deceased was for several years an active Sabbath-school teacher, tract distributor, and a liberal supporter of the cause of Christ. By her will, she has left £100 to each of the following Societies:—The British and Foreign Bible Society, London Missionary Society, and the Home Missionary Society, in connexion with the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, April 2.

BANKRUPTS.

BARLOW, JOHN, sen., and GILL, JAMES, Calvert's-buildings, Southwark and Maidstone, hop factors, April 14, May 13: solicitors, Messrs. Gregson and Co., Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

BIRRELL, ANDREW, Salford, vinegar manufacturer, April 12, May 11: solicitor, Mr. Snowball, Liverpool.

COOK, HENRY JAMES, Hedge-row, High-street, Islington, linen draper, April 12, May 17: solicitors, Messrs. Hardwicks and Co., Weavers'-hall.

JERR, JOHN, Baschurch, Shropshire, grocer, April 8, May 1: solicitors, Messrs. Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

JONES, HENRY, Grosvenor-row, Pimlico, and Smith-street, King's-road, Chelsea, oil and colourman, April 9, May 14: solicitor, Mr. Shaw, Fish-street-hill.

JONES, GEORGE, late of Rough Mills, Bilston, Staffordshire, victualler, April 13, May 4: solicitor, Mr. Barsleet, Birmingham.

MACOUN, ROBERT, Bolton, cotton spinner, April 20, May 18: solicitor, Mr. Woodhouse, Bolton.

PRICE, JOHN JONES, Bulth, Breconshire, tanner, April 16, May 13: solicitors, Messrs. Brittan and Sons, Bristol.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

CLARK, J. and W., Glasgow, merchants.

GRAINGER, R., Glasgow, upholsterer.

MACAULAY J., Glasgow, chemist.

MACLEAN, D., Kinlochshelve, Mull, doctor of medicine.

DIVIDENDS.

H. Cochrane, Manchester, merchant, first div. of ls. 9d., on Tuesday, April 6, and every following Tuesday, at Mr. Hobson's Manchester—R. W. Openshaw, Prestwich-cum-Oldham, Lancashire, common brewer; third div. of 7d., on Tuesday, April 6, and every following Tuesday, at Mr. Hobson's, Manchester.

Tuesday, April 6.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Independent Chapel, Hathersham, Surrey.

BANKRUPTS.

CARTWRIGHT, JOHN, Shrewsbury, ironfounder, April 14, May 15: solicitors, Mr. Smith, Wolverhampton; and Mr. John Smith, Birmingham.

DEACON, MARY, Norwich, carrier, April 14, May 20: solicitors, Messrs. Wilkinson and Rasch, Nicholas-lane, City.

MACKAY, WILLIAM HENRY, Southampton, attorney, April 15, May 13: solicitor, Mr. Walker, Lombard-street.

SYMES, THOMAS, Bridgwater, scrivener, April 20, May 18: solicitors, Messrs. Trevor, Bridgwater; Messrs. Holme and Co., New-inn, London; and Mr. J. Stogdon, Exeter.

WARD, JAMES BRYAN, Birmingham, cheese factor, April 17, May 15: solicitors, Mr. Hiern, Stafford; and Mr. T. S. James, Birmingham.

WILSON, FREDERICK GEORGE, Pangbourne, Berkshire, draper, April 21, May 18: solicitor, Mr. J. J. Peddell, 112, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

DONNAN, WILLIAM STEWART, Whithorn, draper, April 12, May 3.

FAIRLEY, GEORGE, and THOMSON, ROBERT, Glasgow, wholesale ironmongers, April 12, May 3.

ROBERTSON and CO., ROBERT HENDERSON, Dunfermline, manu-facturers, April 14 and 30.

ROBSON, ALEXANDER, Dumfries, surgeon, April 12, May 11.

WALLACE, THOMAS, Wardie, wright, April 12, May 3.

DIVIDENDS.

John Beard Oram, 2, West-square, St. George's-road, Southwark, wine merchant's clerk, first div. of 3s. 2d.; at 12, Birch-lane, on April 12, and two following Mondays—John Edward Green, 46, Whitecross-street, Cripplegate, house agent, second div. of 3s.; at 12, Birch-lane, on April 12, and two following Mondays—Alexander Yeatman and Aubrey Lum, Fore-street, chemists, third div. of 1d. in the pound on the joint estate, and second div. of 2d. in the pound on the separate estate of Alexander Yeatman; at 12, Birch-lane, on April 12, and two following Mondays—Robert Mann, Huntingdon, chemist, first div. of 5s.; at 7, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, on April 10, and following Saturday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	89½	88½	88½	88½	88½	87½
4½ percent. Consols ..	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	87½
3 percent. Reduced ..	—	—	—	—	—	86½
New 3½ percent.	—	—	—	—	—	88½
Long Annuities	—	—	—	—	—	9
Bank Stock	—	—	—	—	—	199½
India Stock	—	—	—	3	3	—
Exchequer Bills	—	1pm	—	2pm	3pm	2pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	2	—	1pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	98	Mexican	21½
Brazilian	86	Peruvian	39½
Buenos Ayres	43½	Portuguese 5 per cents. ..	81
Columbian	16	Ditto converted	33
Danish	86½	Russian	112
Dutch 2½ per cents	56½	Spanish Active	23½
Ditto 4 per cents	90½	Ditto Passive	4
French 3 per cents	77½	Ditto Deferred	17½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	123	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21½
Blackwall	81	London and Greenwich ..	9½
Bristol and Exeter	76½	Manchester and Leeds	110
Eastern Counties	201	Midland Counties	122
Eastern Union	56	Ditto New Shares	35
Edinburgh and Glasgow	79	Manchester and Birming. ..	—
Great North of England	232½	Midland and Derby	94
Great Western	118½	Norfolk	141
Ditto Half	69½	North British	35
Ditto Fifths	27	South Eastern and Dover ..	64
London & North-Western	184	South Western	39
Ditto Quarter Shares	21	York and Newcastle	36½
London and Brighton	51½	York and North Midland ..	87

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, April 5.

The supply of English Wheat by land-carriage samples this morning was unusually small, and was sold at the prices of last week. Foreign maintains our quotations, but business is very limited. Barley must be written 2s., and Beans 1s. per qr. lower. Peas are also difficult of disposal, grey and maple the turn cheaper. Oats of fine quality are scarce, and tolerably maintain their late value, but light and ordinary qualities declined 1s. to 2s. per qr. Flour continues neglected. In Maize there is little doing.

Wheat, Red	72 to 76	Peas, Hog	52 to 55
New	75 .. 78	Maple	53 .. 54
White	75 .. 80	Boilers	54 .. 60
New	78 .. 82	Beans, Ticks	46 .. 48
Flour, persack (Town) ..	60 .. 65	Pigeon	52 .. 54
Barley	41 .. 44	Harrow	48 .. 50
Malt	51 .. 54	Oats, Feed	30 .. 34
Malt, Ordinary	67 .. 68	Fine	35 .. 39
Pale	72 .. 79	Poland	— .. —
Rye	48 .. 54	Potato	34 .. 36

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR APRIL 2.

Wheat	77s. 0d.	Wheat	74s. 7d.
Barley	51 4	Barley	53 3
Oats	31 3	Oats	31 9
Rye	56 8	Rye	55 2
Beans	51 10	Beans	52 9
Peas	56 9	Peas	56 8

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, April 5.

Owing to the large supply of Beasts disposed of on Friday last, we have to report an inactive beef trade, at, in some instances, a decline in the currencies obtained on Monday last of 2d. per 8lbs., the highest figure for the best Scots being 4s. 4d. per 8lbs., yet a good clearance was not effected. With Sheep we were scantily supplied. Prime old Downs commanded a ready sale, at a further improvement in value of quite 2d. per 8lbs., producing without difficulty 5s. 6d. per 8lbs.; but in the value of all other breeds, though it was well supported, we have no alteration to notice. Although the Lamb supply was small, the trade was in a very depressed state, and prices were from 2d. to quite 4d. per 8lbs. lower than on Friday last. The numbers of Calves were good; yet the Veal trade was firm, at fully last week's quotations. In Pigs only a moderate business was doing, at previous currencies.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).			
Beef	3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d.	Veal	4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.
Mutton	3 8 .. 5 6	Pork	3 8 .. 5 2
Lambs	5s. 4d. .. 6s. 8d.		
HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.			
Beasts	990	Sheep	2,260
Friday	2,417	Calves	104
Monday		Pigs	290

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, April 5.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.		Per 8lbs. by the carcase.	
Inferior Beef 2s. 10d. to 3s. 0d.		Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.	
Middling do 3 0 .. 3 2		Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 9	
Prime large 3 2 .. 3 4		Prime ditto 4 2 .. 4 4	
Prime small 3 6 .. 3 8		Veal 4 2 .. 5 4	
Large Pork 3 8 .. 4 0		Small Pork 4 8 .. 5 2	

BREAD.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 9½d. to 10d.; of household ditto, 8d. to 9d. per 4lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, April 3.—The business doing in our market is quite on a retail scale, and prices have undergone no variation since last week's report.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were 1,174 bales, of which 468 were from Sydney, 227 from Egypt, 223 from the Cape of Good Hope, 92 from Bombay, 118 from Turkey, 43 from Mogadore, and 3 from Ceylon. The accounts from the manufacturing districts are rather more encouraging today. Leeds, April 1.—There has been a little more animation in the trade during the past week. Prices remain firm, and the prevailing opinion is, that an advance upon last year's rates will be generally obtained at the next German fairs. Stocks are at present very low, both here and in Germany.

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—There was more Cloverseed offering than could be disposed of to-day, and the turn was again in favour of the buyer. Other sorts of seed were likewise very difficult of disposal, and quotations are little better than nominal at present.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—No improvement has occurred in markets, and we have again to report a dull state of business. Butter: With an active demand for Irish, the sales have been comparatively few and limited, and prices consequently little else than nominal; still the stock has diminished; the weather is more favourable for consumption, and the trade in general bare of supplies. We therefore expect a clearance of all on hand before the new season. Foreign obtained a free sale, and for the finer kinds an advance of 2s. to 4s. per cwt., prices varying as in kind and quality from 80s. to 100s. per cwt. Of Bacon we have nothing favourable to report: the dealings have been of the most trifling character, and prices fully 4s. to 6s. per cwt. less than last quoted. Bale and three middles, Hams, and Lard sparingly sought after, and no material change in value.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—The general demand for cotton noticed last week has continued until to-day, when there is much less doing. The trade has throughout bought sparingly, but holders have, in the majority of instances, obtained ½d. advance, at which the market is to-day more freely supplied, whilst less disposition is shown to effect purchases. Sea Island is saleable at full prices. Egyptian is in improved demand, and saleable qualities are ½d. to ½d. higher. In Brazil there is rather more doing, and in some instances ½d. advance has been obtained. Surats are readily saleable, and may be quoted generally ½d. higher. The sales of this week amount to 30,000 bales, including 8,400 American, 500 Egyptian, and 700 Surat taken on speculation, and 2,500 American, 40 Egyptian, 100 Pernam, and 460 Surat for export. 2,840 American, 800 Egyptian, and 50 Pernam have been forwarded into the country unsold during the month.

TALLOW, LONDON, April 5.—Both on the spot and for forward delivery very little business is doing in tallow, at the depression noticed in our last report. The stock is now small, but quite adequate to meet the wants of the candle-makers, arising from the increased supply of home make, which is selling at 49s. 9d. to 50s. 3d net cash.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3¾d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3¾d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4½d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5½d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearlings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, April 5.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow	48s	76s.	Clover Hay	68s. to 96s.
Oat straw	30s.	34s.		

COAL EXCHANGE, April 5.

Stewart's, 19s. 6d.; Hetton's, 00s. 0d.; Bradly's Hetton's, 19s. 3d.; Lambton's, 19s. 3d.; West Hartley's, 16s. 3d. Ships arrived this week, 235.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.

AT the Half-yearly GENERAL MEETING of the Governors and Members of this Society, for Assisting to APPRENTICE the CHILDREN of DISSENTING MINISTERS, held at the Cheshunt College-rooms, Blomfield-street, Finsbury-circus, on Monday, 29th March, 1847, the First Four Candidates from the subjoined list were elected to the benefit of the Institution:—

	Votes.		Votes.
James Wilkins	754	T. Furneaux Jordan	105
Sarah Ann Jones	550	David Jones	103
Cephas Matthews	452	George Willmore	64
Angelina Eliz. Pentley	248	Daniel Powell	51
Ebenezer Ault	216	Daniel Slater	45
Hannah Rees	183	Ebenezer Allison Selbie	34
Thomas Coleman	118	Catherine Parry	12

GEORGE OSBORN, Chairman.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.—The LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES, KITCHEN RANGES, and FENDERS, as well as General Ironmongery, in the world, is now on Sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) extensive warehouses. Bright steel fenders to 4 feet, from 30s. each; ditto ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto, bronzed, and fitted with standards, 3 feet, 9s.; 4 feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments, and two sets of bars, from 95s.; ditto ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from 49s.; black dining-room register stoves, 2 feet, 18s.; 3 feet, 27s.; bed-room register stoves, 2 feet, 16s.; 3 feet, 24s. The new economical thermic stove, with fender and radiating hearth-plate, from 48s.; fire-irons for chambers 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire-irons, with or-molu and richly cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in the furnishing ironmongery 30 per cent. under any other house. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) stock of general furnishing ironmongery is literally the largest in the world, and as no language can be employed to give a correct idea of its variety and extent, purchasers are invited to call and inspect it.—39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street). Established in Wells-street, 1820.

STOOPING of the SHOULDERS and CONTRACTION of the CHEST are entirely prevented, and gently and effectually removed in Youth, and Ladies and Gentlemen, by the occasional use of the IMPROVED ELASTIC CHEST EXPANDER, which is light, simple, easily applied either above or beneath the dress, and worn without any uncomfortable constraint, or impediment to exercise. Sent per post, by Mr. ALFRED BINYON, Sole Manufacturer and Proprietor, 40, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, London; or full particulars, with Prices and Mode of Measurement, on receipt of a postage-stamp.

MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY.

28, Upper King-street, Bloomsbury-square.
This Library comprises the best and fewest works in every department of Literature, with all the Quarterly and Monthly Periodicals.
Single Subscription.
Seven Shillings per Quarter, One Guinea per Annum.
Family and Country Subscription.
Two, Three, Five, or Ten Guineas per Annum, according to the number of volumes required.
Newspapers regularly supplied.—Stationery of every Description.

THE ATRAPILATORY, OR LIQUID HAIR DYE; the only dye that really answers for all colours, and does not require re-doing but as the hair grows, as it never fades or acquires that unnatural red or purple tint common to all other dyes.

BOTANIC WATER and BEAR'S GREASE.—When the hair is becoming thin and falling off, the only effectual remedy besides shaving the head is the use of the two above-named articles, applied alternately—the botanic water to cleanse the roots from scurf, and as a stimulant, and the bear's grease as a nourisher.

THE NEW TOOTH-PICK BRUSH, thoroughly cleansing between the teeth, when used up and down, and polishing the surface when used crossways. The hair warranted never to come out.

THE UNION and TRIPLE HAIR-BRUSHES.
THE DOUBLE ANTI-PRESSURE NAIL-BRUSH.
THE MEDIUM SHAVING-BRUSH.

THE RAILWAY STROP and POWDER.

The above new and elegant articles, in addition to a very extensive assortment of beautiful PERFUMES, are the sole MANUFACTURES and INVENTIONS of Messrs. ROSS and SONS, 119 and 120, Bishopsgate-street, London.

FAMILIES THEIR OWN BREWERS.—The

following is the Certificate of Andrew Ure, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., &c.:—"I hereby certify that I have examined the Malt Extract, as also the Pale Malt Extract with Hop for Brewing Beer, and the Brown Malt Extract for Brewing Porter, as recently made at the factory of the British Malt Extract Company, and I find them all to be exceedingly well prepared and perfectly adapted to the purpose of making the above two beverages of the best quality and in the simplest manner."—13, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, 8th Dec., 1846. These extracts enable private individuals to make fine Home-Brewed Ale and Porter, without employing any Brewing Utensils. It has only to be dissolved in hot water and fermented. Sold in jars for samples and other purposes, at 1s. to 1s. 6d.; and in bottles, for brewing Nine to Eighteen Gallons, and upwards, at 6s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. each, by the BRITISH NATIONAL MALT EXTRACT COMPANY, 7, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, London; Petty, Wood, and Co., 12, King William-street, City; Wix and Sons, 22, Leadenhall-street; Batty and Co., 15, Finsbury-pavement; Deacastro and Peach, 65, Piccadilly; Hockin and Co., 38, Duke-street, Manchester-square; and Oilmen and Grocers generally.

Also, just published, Seventeenth Thousand, gratis,
NATIONAL BREWING; a Guide to the Use of CONCENTRATED MALT and HOP EXTRACT, for BREWING AND WINE MAKING; to which is added MEDICAL OPINIONS relative to the virtues of Malt and Hops.

London: DICKS and Co., 7, Nicholas-lane, City.

ROWLANDS' UNIQUE PREPARATIONS.—

Patronized by her Majesty the Queen, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Royal Family and Nobility of Great Britain, as well as the several Sovereigns and Courts of Europe.

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL

Is celebrated throughout the world for its genial and nourishing qualities for the Human Hair! It produces and restores hair; stops it from falling off or turning grey; restores Grey Hair to its original colour; frees it from scurf and dandruff, and renders it soft, silky, curly, and glossy. For children, it is especially recommended as forming the basis of a Beautiful Head of Hair! and rendering the use of the fine-comb unnecessary. Price 3s. 6d., 7s. Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d., and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

REMARKABLE CASE OF RESTORATION.—A striking instance of the power of scientific art to remedy the defects of nature has lately occurred in the case of a Mr. F. Balls, a gentleman residing at Worham, in Norfolk, who, in the year 1812, on returning from Harlestone Market to Weybread, where he then resided, sustained severe a fall from his horse, as to bring on an illness of several months' duration, during which period his hair continued to come off, till he became, to use his own terms, "as perfectly bald as if his head had been shaved;" so that the Rev. J. E. Daniel, then clergyman of the parish, offered him a wig as a substitute for his lost hair. Under these circumstances, he was induced to try the effect of Rowlands' Macassar Oil, and it is highly gratifying to add with the most happy results. As soon as part of a bottle was used the growth re-commenced, and he has now to boast of a very thick and luxuriant head of hair, which presents this peculiarity that, though prior to losing his hair it evinced no tendency to curl, the new growth is curly and strong. This fact speaks too strongly for itself to require observation.—Bell's Messenger.

On the wrapper of each bottle of the genuine ROWLANDS' Article are these words, in two lines, ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL.

* All others are "SPURIOUS IMITATIONS."

ROWLANDS' KALYDOR.

This Oriental Balsamic Preparation is of unfailing efficacy in thoroughly purifying the skin from all pimples, spots, blotches, freckles, tan, and discolorations, producing a healthy freshness and transparency of complexion; and an admired softness and delicacy of the hands, arms, and neck.—Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle.

ROWLANDS' ODONTO, or PEARL DENTIFRICE.

A White Powder for the Teeth, compounded of the choicest and most recherché ingredients of the Oriental herbal. It eradicates tartar from the Teeth, removes spots of incipient decay, polishes and preserves the enamel—imparts the most pure and pearl-like whiteness; and gives sweetness and perfume to the breath. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

ROWLANDS' HAIR WASH.

This is a preparation from the choicest Oriental Herbs, of peculiarly mild and detergent properties. It pleasantly and effectually cleanses the hair and skin of the head from scurf and every species of impurity, and imparts a delicate fragrance. It is particularly recommended to be used after bathing, as it will prevent the probability of catching cold in the head, and will render the hair dry in a few minutes. It entirely supersedes the necessity for using the fine comb, so injurious to the tender skin of the head; and, from its beneficial effects on the health, together with the grateful and refreshing sensation it imparts, and being perfectly innocent in its nature, will prove an invaluable appendage to the toilet, and the purposes of the nursery.—3s. 6d. per bottle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Unprincipled Individuals, for the sake of gaining a trifling profit, vend the most spurious compounds, under the names of "Macassar Oil," "Kalydor," and "Odonto;" some under the implied sanction of royalty, and the government departments, with similar attempts at deception. They copy the labels, advertisements, and testimonials (substituting fictitious names and addresses for the real) of the original preparations. It is therefore highly necessary to see that the word "ROWLANDS" is on the wrapper of each article.

* All others are FRAUDULENT IMITATIONS!

The Genuine articles are sold by every respectable Perfumer and Chemist throughout the kingdom.

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE STARVING POOR IN IRELAND.

THE COMMITTEE acknowledge, with great thankfulness, the liberal contributions which continue to be remitted to them for mitigating the appalling distress, which still deepens and spreads in our ill-fated sister country. The gentlemen composing their deputations have completed the work assigned them. They have witnessed many heart-rending scenes of wretchedness and woe. They have seen, too, the unspeakable benefit which has already resulted from English sympathy and relief. Multitudes have been saved from perishing. They have, where practicable, organized Relief Committees, composed of trustworthy persons of different denominations, to whom, in concert with the Agents of the Society, will be entrusted the distribution of the Churches' bounty. Remittances have been, and will continue to be made to such Committees, who have it in charge to examine into the circumstances of each case, and, with very rare exceptions, to administer relief in food, and not in money. There is little hope that the calamity will abate. Months must elapse before any supply can be derived from the soil. It is, therefore, for British Christians to persevere in their course of benevolence, if they would save alive those who are still "ready to perish."

THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

Blomfield-street, April 5, 1847.

Amount already advertised.....	£	s.	d.
Framlingham, Rev. S. A. Browning, by Mr. H. Thompson.....	8,296	4	0
Rev. B. Ash, and Friends, Tuxford and Laxton.....	6	0	0
Brecon, by Mr. Mordecai Jones, Congregations of Calvinistic Methodists in Breconshire	2	6	0
D. Charles, Esq., Carmarthen, from Congregations of Calvinistic Methodists in Carmarthenshire, (additional):—	30	8	2
Llanfynydd	1	1	7
Llangydvine	1	10	10½
Llandovery	6	0	0
Saron	1	0	0
Gosen	1	5	0
Llanarthney	0	15	5½
Bankyvelin	0	12	6
Pantgwyn	0	14	8
Llanpumsaint	1	9	0
Llandelo	2	13	6
Llansaint	0	17	0
College	1	0	0
Crossin	1	14	4½
Llangadock	2	2	3
Llanedy	0	15	1
Hendre and Langbie	1	6	0
Betteva	0	15	6
Nantgaredeg	3	17	1½
Llanddarog	1	5	0
Soar	0	14	0½
Lanstephan	1	0	0
Capel Dewi	0	10	4½
Brechra	0	16	0
Bankyvelin	0	5	6
St. Clears	0	9	6
Cwmbach	0	5	6
Tyhen	0	6	0
Lansadwrn	0	16	6
Pentywyn	1	14	0
Lansawel	0	15	4½
Cwmaman	0	17	0
Llanddennant	3	8	6
Cefubyrach	1	1	0
Horeb	0	5	3½
Pembrey	0	13	6
Kidwelly	0	8	9
Celycwm	2	3	0
Salem	0	16	2
Mothvey	1	1	5
Bont	1	11	3
Gaeu	0	16	0
Cromdwyrran	0	17	6
Talley	1	13	4
	£54	13	3
Less expences	0	0	7
	£54	12	8
Previously advertised	£40	2	0

Congregational Church, Cumnock, Ayrshire.....	8	8	0
Little Dean, Gloucestershire, Rev. B. Jenkyn.....	0	13	0
Rev. R. Phillip and Friends, Maberley Chapel (additional)	11	0	0
Josh. Truman, jun., Esq., Highbury	10	0	0
Rev. J. Burnet and Friends, Camberwell (additional).....	6	1	0
Rev. E. Forsyth and Friends, New Meeting, Royston	14	9	2
Rev. Thomas Stenner and Friends, Dartmouth	14	13	0
Collected on Fast-day, in a Family, East Grinstead.....	0	6	8
King's Cliffe and Nassington Home Missionary Station, by Rev. George Amos	9	5	0
Rev. H. B. Jeula and Friends, Greenwich	40	10	0
Rev. T. Timpson and Friends, Lewisham	5	2	0
Rev. J. Hunt and Friends, Brixton-hill	61	1	10
Hoxton Academy Chapel, by Mr. C. Way, including 6s. 6d. from Leeds, Kent	26	15	0
Rev. R. Davey, Westgate Chapel, Peterborough, Ditto for Scotland £8 4s. 8d.....	20	0	0
Leatherhead, Collected on "Fast-day," by Mr. J. Payne.....	0	10	0
Stowmarket, Rev. W. P. Lyon and Friends	45	15	0
Rev. S. B. Berne and Friends, Lincoln	34	18	7
Mr. D. Evans, by Dr. Campbell	5	0	0
J. L., by ditto	0	5	0
Rev. James Griffiths and Friends, Treliwyd, St. David's "A Fast-day Offering," from a few Friends at Chard, by Rev. W. H. Griffiths	3	4	0
Rev. E. White Hereford, (3rd remittance)	4	11	0
Rev. B. Hobson and Friends, Welford	18	1	0
Rev. T. P. Bull and Friends, Newport Pagnell	32	12	10
Collected by Miss H. Buss, Headcorn	2	6	0
Mr. Francis, Honiton, Rev. W. Wright	0	10	0

VICKERS' GINGER BRANDY. Experience

teaches us that the beneficent productions of the earth are themselves sufficient for man's earthly good; especially when rightly directed, and adopted in accordance with the exercise of reason.

Ginger, the almost spontaneous growth of a sunny climate, offers, in his own land, its invigorating aid, to recruit the exhausted energies of the enervated Indian; and in other quarters of the globe nature kindly provides the luscious and grateful orange, as the needful renovator.

After the most acute medical research, professors are compelled to admit, that nature herself presents the most delightful and efficient remedies, in the temperate use of the Seville range and Jamaica ginger. By the means of commerce we are enabled to obtain these good things; and by a skillful and judicious operation, we are enabled to offer to the world a combination of these excellent remedial qualities, eminently useful in spasms, flatulence, and sensations of cold. And, indeed, for whatever purpose stimulants are required, there are none more wholesome—none more pure—none more efficacious, than VICKERS' GINGER BRANDY.

THE ORANGE GINGERETTE

is an article less highly concentrated, and so compounded as to be acceptable to the Ladies, and those to whom a stronger Liqueur is not necessary.

THE CURACAO PUNCH

stands pre-eminent for delicacy of flavour and superiority of quality; and may be used either as a Liqueur, or in combination with warm or cold water.

THE IMPERIAL LIQUEUR GENEVA

has long stood the test of public approval: it is the subject of much careful attention in its distillation; and nothing finer can be produced by the British distiller.

The above are all Bottled, Sealed, and Labelled at the Distillery of JOSEPH AND JOHN VICKERS and Co., LONDON; and may be obtained, as well as their far-famed Orange Boven, Curacao, Cherry Brandy, Gold Wasser, and Crème de Noyau, of all the Spirit Merchants in the kingdom.
Borough Market Distillery, London.

This day is published, price sixpence.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.—GENERAL CONFERENCE.

AN Aggregate MEETING of the OPPONENTS of the Measure will be held in the Large Room, EXETER-HALL, on THURSDAY Evening, APRIL 15th, 1847. The Chair will be taken at SIX o'Clock.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE appointed to aid in opposing the Government scheme of education, deem it to be their duty, in the discharge of the important and responsible trust confided to them, to convene in London a General Conference of the opponents of that measure throughout the kingdom, in order that an opportunity may be afforded for a collective expression of their opinions, and for remonstrating with her Majesty's Ministers, and communicating with members of Parliament, before the discussion of the Educational Grant and of the scheme in question, which has been fixed by the First Lord of the Treasury for the 19th inst. For this purpose, it is proposed:—

1. That the Conference assemble at ten o'clock a.m., on Tuesday the 13th of April, in Crosby-hall, Bishopsgate-street.

2. That it be composed of such persons as shall be deputed by any body of individuals organized, as a Committee or otherwise, for the purpose of opposing the Government scheme of education, or by any congregation, or other persons, who shall have united in a petition to Parliament against it.

3. That, in cases in which it shall not be convenient to send deputies from the locality, the Central Committee, on application for that purpose, will hold themselves prepared to suggest the names of other persons deemed eligible to act in that capacity.

4. That so soon as the Central Committee shall be apprized of the appointment of such deputies, they will forward to the individuals appointed a card of admission into the Hall of Conference.

5. That, if possible, notice of appointment shall be given to the Central Committee on or before Friday, the 9th of April.

6. That, on the assembling of the Conference, the Treasurer, or some other member of the Central Committee, shall take the chair, until the Committee shall have stated the circumstances in which, and the objects for which, the Conference has been convened; which done, the Conference shall then elect its own Chairman and other officers, and lay down regulations for its proceedings.

By order of the Central Committee,

F. A. COX,
R. AINSLIE, } Secretaries.
J. M. HARE,

Committee-room, King's Head, Poultry,
March 31, 1847.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

AT a PUBLIC MEETING, convened for the purpose of considering the best means of opposing the Scheme of Education contained in the Minutes of the Committee of Council of August and December, 1846, held at the LONDON TAVERN, on TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1847.

GEORGE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, Esq., in the Chair, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. Charles Stovel; seconded by Nathaniel Griffin, Esq., Barrister-at-Law; and carried, with two dissentients:—

1. That, whatever might be the value of the educational measure now proposed by the Government, this meeting could not consent to accept it when brought forward in a manner so alien to the spirit and principles of the British constitution.

Moved by Joseph Sturge, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. John Burnet; and carried unanimously:—

4. That, even were the manner in which this measure is brought forward unexceptionable in the judgment of this meeting, the gravest objections lie against the measure itself, as tending to enervate the system of voluntary contribution and local educational efforts; as opening a channel through which a corrupt political influence may at any time be exercised on the masses of society; as still further, and in the most inconsistent of all ways, mixing up the State with religion, and leading, in numerous instances, to a direct violation of the rights of conscience; and as the commencement of a system of Government action which is capable of vast and indefinite extension, but of which no man can foresee the issue.

Moved by the Rev. Daniel Katterns, seconded by James Carter, Esq., and carried, with one dissentient:—

3. That, in the judgment of this meeting, the fact, that all schemes for the promotion of education by the Government which have been hitherto propounded, have been found to contain elements in their operation incompatible with the welfare of the community, is adapted to shake the confidence of our legislators in the belief, now so strongly entertained within the walls of Parliament, that education is the business of the Government; and that it should induce them to give to this question a new and careful investigation.

Moved by the Rev. John Howard Hinton, A.M., seconded by William Rutt, Esq., and carried unanimously:—

4. That the resolutions adopted be embodied in a petition to the House of Commons, to be signed by the Chairman, on behalf of the meeting.

Moved by the Rev. John Burnet, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Cox, and carried by acclamation:—

5. That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to George William Alexander, Esq., and also to Joseph Sturge, Esq. (who succeeded him to the chair); and that this meeting recognizes with special approval the firmness of Mr. Sturge in maintaining order in its proceedings.

By order of the Central Committee,

F. A. COX,
R. AINSLIE, } Secretaries.
J. M. HARE,

Committee-room, King's Head, Poultry,
March 31, 1847.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT EDUCATION MEETING, ROCHDALE.—On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., a crowded, enthusiastic, and influential Meeting was held in the Public-hall, Rochdale, for the purpose of protesting against the Government Scheme of Education. Henry Kelsall, Esq., having been called to the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. David Hewitt; seconded by William Fenton, Esq., of Meadowcroft; supported by Robert Schofield, Esq., of Roach-bank,—

That this meeting, avowing their deep interest in the education of the people, as being of vital importance to themselves personally, and to the welfare of the country at large, rejoice in the efforts which have been made, not only to diffuse its advantages, but to improve its character; and feel justified, by what has been accomplished, in expressing their strong conviction, that the voluntary exertions of its friends will be adequate to supply all that is requisite to place the means of sound instruction within the reach of all classes of the community.

Moved by the Rev. William Reid Thorburn, M.A.; seconded by the Rev. John Birt; supported by the Rev. William F. Burchell,—

That this meeting, while they regard as unnecessary the educational scheme unfolded in the Minutes of Council, and presented to both Houses of Parliament on the 5th of February last, view it with the utmost alarm, as unconstitutional in its character, detrimental to the interests of civil and religious liberty, and as the commencement of a system which, admitting of indefinite extension, will add largely to the patronage of Government, gradually destroy the mainly independence of the nation, and entail an enormous addition to the public burdens, without securing the wished-for results.

Moved by Jacob Bright, Jun., Esq., of Green-bank; seconded by Edward Grubb, Esq., of the Royal College, Belfast,—

That, in addition to the specific objections entertained against the measure brought forward by the Committee of Council, this meeting deny that it is the right of Government to interfere in the education of the people.

Moved by John Petrie, Esq.; seconded by Oliver Ormerod, Esq.—

That the petition now read be adopted by this meeting, and entrusted for presentation to the House of Commons to William S. Crawford, Esq., the respected member for this borough.

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at **UNION CHAPEL, PARISH-STREET, Tooley-street, Southwark**, on **THURSDAY Evening next, APRIL 8th**; for the purpose of adopting a Petition to Parliament against the alarming and Unconstitutional Measure of the Government. **JOSIAH CONDER, Esq.**, will take the Chair at **SEVEN o'Clock** precisely. Several Ministers and other Gentlemen will address the Meeting.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.—It is specially requested by the Executive Committee that the names and addresses of gentlemen appointed to attend the Triennial Conference, to be held in London, on the 4th of May next, together with a statement of the mode of their appointment, may be forwarded immediately to the office of the Association, in order that cards of admission may be transmitted to them.

Members of the Association intending to be present, may procure cards of admission on application at this office, on the 13th, 14th, or 15th instant.

F. A. COX,
E. MIAL, } Secretaries.
J. M. HARE,

Office: 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row, April 3rd, 1847.

A Conference of the Friends of **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, held in the City of Norwich, on Wednesday, the 31st day of March, 1847, attended by Ministers and Gentlemen from all parts of the County of Norfolk. **J. H. TILLET, Esq.**, in the Chair:—

It was moved by the Rev. James Browne, of North Walsham; seconded by Jeremiah Colman, Esq., the Mayor of Norwich, and unanimously resolved:—

That against the Educational Scheme brought forward by the Committee of Council, this Conference earnestly protests, as being unconstitutional, dangerous to Civil Liberty, augmenting Clerical power, and doing gross injustice to those Dissenters who cannot conscientiously receive Government help, and hereby resolves to use every constitutional means utterly to defeat it.

It was moved by the Rev. R. Hamilton, of Lynn; seconded by the Rev. J. S. Russell, of Great Yarmouth, and resolved (with one dissentient only):—

That this Conference urges upon all Nonconformists the necessity of promptly holding public meetings to oppose this educational scheme, of adopting petitions to Parliament against the passing of the proposed grant, and of distinctly signifying that, at the coming election, they will vote for no man who gives his support to this obnoxious measure.

It was moved by J. W. Dowson, Esq., of Norwich; seconded by Mr. F. Pigg, of Norwich, and unanimously resolved:—

That this Conference is convinced that the liberties of the people are insecure, so long as the right of legislation in matters of religion is claimed and exercised by the Government; and therefore resolves to use all legitimate means to sever the existing connexion between Church and State.

It was moved by the Rev. Andrew Reed, of Norwich; seconded by Mr. Delf, and unanimously resolved:—

That this meeting deems it highly important, that delegates should be sent from all parts of the kingdom to the Anti-state-church Conference, to be held in London, on May 4th; and strongly urges the friends of religious liberty, in every place throughout the county, to send representatives to the London Conference.

It was moved by the Rev. J. T. Wigner, of Lynn; seconded by B. J. Crisp, Esq., of Harleston, and unanimously resolved:—

That this meeting respectfully suggests to the Anti-state-church Conference the propriety of adopting, and strenuously recommending the following plan of operation:—

- 1st. The formation, in every district, of a local organization.
- 2nd. The delivery of lectures simultaneously throughout the kingdom previous to the coming election.
- 3rd. The Collection of a National Fund.
- 4th. The formation of an Electoral Committee in every borough and town throughout the country.

Signed on behalf of the Conference,
J. H. TILLET, Chairman.

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FAMINE IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on **MONDAY** next, **APRIL 12**, in the **BRITISH SCHOOL-ROOMS**, Cowper-street, City-road, when information will be given of the awful condition of millions of the Irish people suffering from hunger and famine. The case is urgent. The people are perishing. Death is doing its work by day and by night. The starving and the dying demand immediate relief—the Providence of God loudly calls, "Whatsoever thy hands findeth to do, do with all thy might."

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Rev. G. H. Stoddart, A.M. | Rev. James Carlile, D.D.

UNITED RELIEF ASSOCIATION'S ADDRESS TO THE
PRINCIPALS OF BOARDING-SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT
ENGLAND:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a crisis like the present, when thousands of our fellow-countrymen are falling a prey to famine, we have deemed it right to appeal to you from a conviction that if the extreme affliction of Ireland is simply and truly stated to your Pupils, they will, with the warm affection of Youth, be willing to make a collection for the mitigation of the suffering; and as they cannot too soon learn the lesson of commiseration and assisting the afflicted, we request you to state the subject to them, and commend the matter to their consideration. It may be announced that the United Relief Association have already received the following contributions from Pupil Establishments:—

1847.	£ s. d.
Feb. 14. Gowring, Mr. J. G., pupils of, Finchley	1 10 0
22. Stoddart, Rev. G. H., pupils of, 21, Cambridge-terrace	10 1 2
March 10. Farebrother, Mr. J., pupils of, Oxford	1 15 3
Coleman, Mr. T., pupils of, Sandgate	1 0 0
Biden, Mr. J., pupils of, Kingston on Thames	1 0 0
Gowring, Mr. J. G., pupils of, Finchley (2nd donation)	0 18 0
12. Junson, Mr. H., pupils of, Brighton	1 10 0
Rutherford, Rev. Mr., pupils of, Abergavenny	1 8 0
Collingwood, Mr. J., pupils of, Bridewell-house, Hoxton	1 10 2
15. Lane, Mr. E., pupils of, Mount Pleasant, Plymouth	5 8 3
17. Selby, Mr. F., pupils of, Elm-coltages Warehouse	2 0 0
Conings, Mr. L., pupils of, Barnet	0 5 0
19. Brook, Mr. W., pupils of, Norwich	2 0 0
26. Evans, Mr. G., pupils of, Devizes	1 0 0
April 1. Stokes, Mr. W. R., pupils of, Ongar (a course of lectures on Astronomy)	8 10 0
Fenner, Mr., pupils of	2 0 0
Molyneux, Mr., pupils of	0 16 0
Carr, Mr., pupils of	1 0 0
Parnells, Misses, pupils of	0 17 0
Blane, Mr. C., pupils of, Madras-house, Hackney	1 5 0
Ekins, Mr. T., pupils of, Coburn-terrace, Bow-road	1 1 0

The contributions you honour us with for the distressed will be acknowledged in the *Morning Herald* of the succeeding Tuesday. The case is urgent. The people are perishing. Death is doing its work by day and by night. The starving and the dying demand immediate relief—the Providence of God loudly calls, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do with all thy might."

Ladies benevolently inclined can have cards for making collections of small sums for the destitute Irish and Scotch, by applying at 40, Leicester-square.

Donations received by the Treasurer, Luke James Hansard, Esq., 1, Old Palace-yard, Westminster, or the Secretaries, at 40, Leicester-square.

GEORGE H. STODDART, M.A., } Hon. Secretaries.
JAMES CARLILE, D.D.,

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS, STAMFORD-HILL.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY DINNER of this CHARITY will be held at the **LONDON TAVERN**, on **THURSDAY**, the 6th of **MAY** next.

The Right Hon. Lord **ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P.**, will preside on the occasion.

Office, 32, Poultry. **W. H. L. STRUDWICKE, Sub-Sec.**

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MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,
Established 1837.

Edinburgh.—14, St. Andrew-square.

London.—12, Moorgate-street, near the Bank.

The **NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the **CONTRIBUTORS** was held at Edinburgh, on the 17th of February last—**CHARLES LAWSON, Esq.**, in the Chair.

The Report of the Directors congratulated the members on the accelerated progress of the Institution. During the year, 416 New Policies, assuring a sum of £191,102 (besides Annuities, &c.) were opened; the Annual Premiums amounting to £5,483.

The experience of the Institution in regard to mortality, notwithstanding its general severity in the past year, continued to be most favourable. The number of deaths was twenty-one, the amount of claims thereby emerging £13,000; a sum greatly below what is provided for by the Tables on which the Premiums are founded.

Since the commencement, 2530 Policies had been issued, covering Assurances to the extent of upwards of £1,150,000. The existing Assurances were £984,463, and the Annual Income considerably exceeded £30,000.

After advertizing to the prosperous state of the Branches in London and Glasgow, the Report referred to the question raised at last General Meeting, in reference to the principle of investigation, by which a Surplus Fund of £30,485 was reported to have then accrued; and proceeded:—

"As the question raised by that objection was one of principle, the Directors instructed the Manager to obtain the opinion of Professor De Morgan in regard to it, and they now think it right to submit the statement of the Case, with his Opinion, at length, to the Contributors, as containing a clear and satisfactory exposition of the principles applicable to such an investigation."

In his opinion, here referred to, Mr. De Morgan states, "I think the Directors have paid due regard to prudence in the manner of making the valuation, and that the terms in which the Annual Report is drawn up are unobjectionable." And, after answering in detail the objections which had been stated, he concludes, "I hold, with the Directors, that the surplus is rather under than over-stated."

[The Case and Opinion will be printed in the Report, which will be prepared as usual in the form of a pamphlet.]

The same case was submitted to Mr. Griffith Davies, actuary to the Guardian Assurance Company, whose views also bear out the course which was followed by the Directors; his opinion stating that the method adopted by them in their printed Report "is unobjectionable, and calculated to give the Contributors a faithful view of the affairs of the Institution."

Mr. William James Duncan, Manager of the National Bank of Scotland, moved that the report be approved of, which was seconded by Mr. David Hector, advocate.

Mr. John Sinclair, City-chambers, said he could not refrain from rising to express the gratification with which he had listened to the report just read. Being one of those who, at last meeting, had stated some doubts connected with the investigation, he felt it would be improper were he not now to express the delight with which he had heard that part of the report in particular which contained the opinion of Professor De Morgan, and which entirely removed from his mind, as he was sure it would have done from the mind of his deceased friend, Mr. Fraser, all doubts as to the correctness of the principle on which the investigation was made.

The motion was then unanimously adopted. Thanks were voted to the directors and to the various office-bearers.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE, BY MODERATE PREMIUMS.
London.—12, Moorgate-street.

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Annual Premium for £100.	Age 20	Age 25	Age 30	Age 35	Age 40	Age 45
Payable for	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole of Life.	1 15 8	1 18 0	1 6 2	6 10 3	4 9 3	5 7
For 21 Years.	2 7 10	2 10 8	14 6 2	19 8 3	6 5 3	14 9

The twenty-one years' scale is especially suitable to Ministers, and Professional Gentlemen commencing to assure at early and middle ages. They are thus entirely relieved of all payments when they have passed the prime of life, and that for Annual Premiums not much exceeding those commonly charged for the whole period of life.

All desirable information will be afforded by the London Secretary, by communicating with whom residents in any part of the kingdom can readily assure in this Office, without fines for non-appearance, or any extra charge whatever.

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CHARLES BURLS, jun., Secretary.

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